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HM Chapter 1

Chapter 1: 7 Months Pregnant

Her body was burning with heat as strong as volcanic lava, and the only one who could save her, was the man before her.....

She clung tightly to the cold marble-like skin, her survival instinct eventually making her give up all resistance.....

Pain was accompanied by pleasure slowly rising bit by bit, like a firework display going off in her mind, making her feel like she was a lone boat in a sea of fire.....

Rising, then sinking, it was hard for her to free herself—

“Hey, wake up..... It’s cold here, don’t catch a cold—”

The pressure on her shoulders caused Ning Xi to wake up abruptly; her disoriented gaze met with the concerned eyes of the nurse. In an instant, her guilty conscience made her face blush, she wished she could crawl into a hole in the ground as she avoided the nurse’s gaze in shame.

Damn, although it has already been such a long time after that one drunken night, that hot night she had with Su Yan kept appearing in her dreams from time to time.

Thanks to being drunk to the point of unconsciousness, she did not have much memory of that night, otherwise she would not know how to face Yan-gege.

The nurse saw that she had finally woken up, and passed the papers in her hands to her: “You forgot to take your pregnancy health results, Dr Zhang would like you to come again next week!”

Ning Xi received the report, smiled sweetly, and carefully placed the papers in her own purse.

Su Yan was still studying overseas, he was coming back tonight. Thinking of the meeting tonight, Ning Xi unconsciously tensed up.

Because the area Su Yan was at was too inaccessible, it was only until the child was more than 7 months old that she finally contacted him.

Thinking of the shock that Su Yan had when he found out she was pregnant, Ning Xi was a little nervous.

Was it because she was particularly sensitive due to the pregnancy? Ning Xi felt that Su Yan was not as happy as she was about this.

The doctor reassured her saying that men were always like that with their first child, their mentality would take some time to change!

But..... it couldn't be that, even regarding marriage, she would have to be the one to speak up?

The sun was burning brightly in the sky when she came out of the hospital.

Ning Xi struggled to support her waist, just as she was about to wave down a taxi, a dazzling red sports car rushed towards her.

Ning Xi's heart thumped, and she retreated quite a few steps back.

Only to hear a screeching sound from the brakes, as the red sports car just brushed over the edge of her clothes, before stopping abruptly.

Ning Xi's heart almost stopped; after slowly regaining her footing, she saw a woman, wearing a body-hugging red dress, toss her wavy hair as she stepped down from the car.

“Ning Xueluo, are you crazy?”

Ning Xueluo looked at her, laughing with deep meaning. With crossed arms, as if strutting on the catwalk, she swayed as she walked until she stood in front of Ning Xi. Using the advantage of her high heels, she arrogantly looked down on the big bellied Ning Xi: “What? Scared that I’ll kill the bastard in your stomach?”

Ning Xi subconsciously protected her abdomen, taking a step back, she looked at her warily: “Ning Xueluo! Don’t you go too far!”

Despite knowing that Ning Xueluo had always been at loggerheads with her,

Ning Xi had not thought that she could speak such vicious words.

“Going too far? You’re the one who went too far! After getting drunk and doing it with some wild man and getting pregnant, then trying to make Su Yan become the father, tsk tsk..... Ning Xi, aren’t you so shameless!”

Ning Xi froze, “What nonsense are you saying?”

“Hey, don’t tell me you really believe that the man who slept with you that night, was Su Yan?” Ning Xueluo laughed before leaning back: “Saying that you grew up with Su Yan since you were kids with every other sentence, saying that you’re childhood sweethearts, and you don’t even know what his figure is like?”

Ning Xi grew paler as she listened, despite standing under intense sunlight, her whole body felt cold.

Yes, the man from that night.....

She had only thought..... Su Yan was fitter than she had imagined after growing up.

Now with Ning Xueluo’s malicious reminder, she then suddenly recalled that, other than the body, the man from that night was indeed very different from Su Yan.....

TL Note:

-gege (哥哥) – An affectionate term from a girl, to an older guy she has a romantic interest in. She is very obviously trying to get close to a guy if she uses this in front of him. It could also be shortened to just ‘-ge’. The literal meaning is ‘older brother’. Think ‘oppa’ in Korean. The subtlety was hard to translate so I’ll be leaving in its original form.

HM Chapter 2

Chapter 2: A Stranger's Bastard

"I'll just tell it to you straight! That night you drank the wine that I added a little something to, and out of good will, I found two brawny men for you so that you could fully satisfy your desire. Who knew that you would be so insensible? You actually entered some wild man's room, and even unceremoniously....." Ning Xueluo's tone was full of disgust: "Yan-gege is too kind-hearted, he was afraid that you wouldn't be able to accept the truth, so he said that it was him that night!"

"You....." Ning Xi was trembling with anger, listening up to here, she could no longer hold back and grabbed Ning Xueluo's wrist. "Why would you do that to me? Why! Haven't you harmed me enough?"

Ning Xueluo had her eyebrows raised in anger at first, and was about to push Ning Xi away, but she caught sight of Su Yan standing behind Ning Xi. She immediately softened her voice, showing off a delicate and pitiful expression: "Older sister, I know I was wrong. If you want to beat and scold someone, then do it towards me, don't blame Yan-gege..."

Ning Xi froze, and in the next second, she saw Ning Xueluo suddenly fall to the ground, that pose... was as if she had pushed her.

"Ning Xi! What did you do——" A scolding voice sounded from behind her.

Ning Xi turned in surprise, and saw Su Yan with a cold expression.

Su Yan brushed past her, and supported Ning Xueluo up: "Xueluo, are you okay?"

Ning Xueluo was practically hanging her entire body on Su Yan: "Yan-gege, I didn't do it on purpose, I know I'm in the wrong..... I'm the one who should be sorry to sister for causing all this....."

“That’s enough, I’ll settle everything!” Su Yan patted Ning Xueluo’s shoulders, letting her enter the car: “I’ll explain everything to Ning Xi.”

Ning Xi’s mind was completely blank, she watched Su Yan walk towards her, and watched his mouth open and close.

He talked for a long time.

He spoke of their time together as childhood sweethearts, of his struggle when he fell in love with Ning Xueluo, of his anger when he found out that Ning Xueluo had plotted against her, of his shock and guilt when he found out that Ning Xi was pregnant..... He spoke of how he had accepted Ning Xueluo’s apology.....

Finally, he said: “Ning Xi, I’m sorry, I can’t marry you. It’s not because of the matter of that night or this child, but it’s because I can’t let Xueluo down, and I don’t want to deceive myself and my feelings.”

These few months, he had been taking Ning Xueluo with him overseas, and after getting along together day and night, it was even harder to separate. Even though he had admitted that he was the one who had relations with Ning Xi that night for the sake of covering up her pain, in his heart, he had already chosen Ning Xueluo.

So after knowing that Ning Xi was pregnant, he could not bear it any longer and immediately went to the Ning family to explain everything to their parents, and to reveal the truth to Ning Xi.

“Then..... Su Yan..... you knew all along that it was Ning Xueluo who drugged me to ruin my innocence? For the sake of protecting her, you told me that it was you that night?” The Ning Xi that had finally recovered her voice, looked at the cool and calm Su Yan as if her soul had escaped from her body.

“Ning Xi, Xueluo did not do it on purpose, she’s still young, and impulsive.....”

“Then what about me?” Ning Xi raised her head to look at Su Yan, face full of despair: “Did you ever think of me, not even for a little bit?”

Su Yan did not speak, and after a long while, he reached out to Ning Xi: “The sun is too bright here, let’s go home first.....”

“Don’t touch me——” Ning Xi pushed away Su Yan’s hands, and suddenly

started laughing loudly.

Living up to now, Ning Xi felt that her life was like a joke.

In order to live in the same city as Su Yan, she had put all her strength in her studies so she could get into B University.

In order to please Su Yan, she had given her dream of acting.

In order to match his upbringing and family background, she had abandoned her adoptive parents to return to the Ning family, clumsily trying to please those so-called distinguished figures.....

In the end, what she received in return was one sentence: "I can't let Xueluo down."

Ning Xueluo, had stolen not only her identity, and her biological parents, but now..... she had even stolen away her sweetheart!

Ning Xueluo was still young, so her mistakes could be forgiven?

Then—— who would take responsibility for her life?

She even——she didn't even know who the man from that night was!

Ning Xi covered her face; body shaking fiercely, she was already in the depths of despair.

Su Yan watched Ning Xi walk towards the road unthinkingly, as if in a trance. He threw away the cigarette he was grasping between his fingers, and was about to chase after her, but was held back by Ning Xueluo, who held onto his sleeve from behind: "Yan-gege, where are you going?"

And in the instant Su Yan was hesitating, a loud noise rang out. Ning Xi, who had been walking on the zebra crossing, was thrown into the air, landing heavily on the ground.

"Help—— help—— A pregnant woman was hit——"

In the glaring light, Ning Xi saw shaking silhouettes and the two faces that made her nauseous. The cramping pain that came from her belly caused her to lose consciousness bit by bit. She only blinked her eyes once, and the fresh blood on her forehead flowed into her eyes..... The world fell into darkness.....

HM Chapter 3

Chapter 3: The Little Boy in the Bar

Five years later.

In the Eton bar, in a corridor on the empty top floor.

Ning Xi had been drinking for the entire night to accompany some investors. With a splitting headache, she wanted to find somewhere clean and quiet to sober up, but she had not expected that Chang Li would follow her. She could only gather up her spirit to deal with her, "Sister Chang, is there something you want to say?"

"Ning Xi, let me ask you, did you register to audition for the female lead in《Land Under Heaven》?"

"Yes, why?"

"You're not allowed to go tomorrow!" Although Chang Li was her manager, she was stopping her from auditioning for this role that all the major entertainment companies were jostling for.

Ning Xi was not at all surprised by this, and only raised her brows and asked: "Reason?"

"You went behind my back and acted by yourself, and you still dare to ask me for the reason? Didn't you know that the company has already arranged for Ning Xueluo to audition?"

"This doesn't seem to conflict with the company's arrangements." Ning Xi smiled faintly at her, "Ning Xueluo made you come find me? Don't tell me she's afraid that I, a small-time actress whose name isn't even known, will snatch her role?"

"You think you have the ability to snatch Xueluo's role? You're still talking in

your dreams! Let me tell you, don't waste your efforts. The Ning family has invested 30 million into this movie, Xueluo is already sitting securely in this role!"

"Then why are you so anxious?"

"Since you're my artist, you have to listen to my arrangements!" Chang Li said as if that was how it ought to be.

"Heh, so sister Chang still knows that I'm an artist under you."

"Ning Xi, I don't have the time to bicker with you, since you're refusing to comply, don't blame me for resorting to force!"

As she finished speaking, Ning Xi felt a strong blow from behind. Caught off guard, she was pushed into the storeroom in the corner, and her phone was also taken away.

With a bang, the door was heavily shut.

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The footsteps outside the door slowly drifted away.

Knowing that shouting was useless, Ning Xi kept silent. Leaning against the door, she slid down to the floor with an indifferent expression.

When she had first entered the company, Ning Xueluo was still able to restrain herself, and only made Chang Li arrange for some villain roles for her at most. However, she was growing bolder and starting to go too far. She was even able to throw out such a low level tactic.....

If she failed to get the role this time, then she had to find a way to leave Starlight Entertainment.....

Amidst her messy thoughts, a small sound travelled to her ears.

Was there a mouse?

Ning Xi followed the direction of the sound and looked over— and was stunned.

She saw a little boy behind a stack of boxes.....

That little guy looked to be about four or five; he looked like a finely carved jade piece, white, soft, like a little bun. He was currently shivering and hiding in

the corner, his dark eyes filled with precaution and vigilance.

Uh, why would there be a child in a storeroom of a bar?

There shouldn't be a customer so crazy as to bring their child to a bar, right?

"Hey, little bun, who are you? How did you get in here?"

"Did you sneak in?"

"Were you also shut in here by someone?"

"Do you eat sweets?"

After questioning him for half the day, the child remained silent, but started shaking even more, as if he were a frightened little beast.

Finally, Ning Xi did not bother continuing to speak, it had nothing to do with her anyway.

The two of them, adult and child, thus peacefully occupied a corner each.

At this moment, the light bulb above them flashed brightly, then went out.

In the darkness, Ning Xi vaguely heard a chattering sound. After carefully listening for a bit, she realised that it was similar to the sound of teeth chattering.

Ning Xi laughed in spite of herself, and turned towards the little bun to say, "Scared of the dark?"

The chattering sound paused for a second, before increasing in volume.

Oh, how was he so cowardly?

Ning Xi patted her bottom and stood up, then walked towards the little guy.....

HM Chapter 4

Chapter 4: Saved a Little Bun

The little bun was so scared of her that his face went pale.

However, Ning Xi just sat down next to the little bun and did nothing, immediately shutting her eyes and going to sleep.

She had been pushed by Chang Li to accompany people in drink the whole night, she had a blinding headache right now.

When Ning Xi finally woke up after a while, she felt that the side of her leg was warm. Lowering her head, she could see that at some point, the little bun had snuggled up to the side of her leg, and his little hand was even holding on to the corner of her shirt.

Ning Xi could not help but laugh.

Previously, when she was still in the countryside, she had owned a cat. It was particularly cowardly and afraid of people, and would run if it saw any person. However, as long as you did not notice it, it would let its guard down and feel like you were not a threat. Once that happened, it would sneakily snuggle up to your side by itself, even climbing into your lap to sleep.

The little bun seemed to have felt her gaze, his little face blushed a bit, but this time, there was no more panic in his eyes. Instead, his big eyes were filled with curiosity.

He was really just like a little pet cat, even his eyes were the same.

Ning Xi's lips curved up, her hands were itching to pet him; she gave up on resisting and reached out to pet that adorable fluffy little head.

With that one touch, her face immediately changed.

Why was his forehead this hot!

“You’re having a fever?”

Chang Li would keep her locked up until the audition was over tomorrow, at the very least.

If the child continued burning for that long, it would be too dangerous.

While getting anxious over the time, she found that something was not right. The light bulb had blown, why was there still light in the room?

Raising her head, she saw that there was a small skylight, and light was falling from that small window.

Ning Xi looked around the storeroom, and finally moved a ladder over.

“Little bun, come over, I’ll help you get out!”

The little guy finally showed a response to her words, but he shook his head with a resolute gaze.

Ning Xi understood his meaning, but smiled and pinched his cheeks, “You’re quite loyal after all, you want to suffer together with me? Go up, this window is too small, I can’t get out. If you get out first, you can find someone to come save me.”

Seeing that the little guy was still hesitating, Ning Xi carried him and placed him on the ladder, “Quickly, if you’re a man, then don’t hesitate. I’ll protect you from the bottom!”

After finally sending the child out with much difficulty, Ning Xi felt a wave of dizziness. She lost control of her legs, and fell from the ladder in one movement.....

From the edge of the window, the little bun saw this scene, and panic rose up on the previously dull and lifeless little face.

Ning Xi held on to the last bits of her strength and said one word, “Go.....”

Under the light of the stars, the woman’s face was pale and fragile, but that did not obscure her startling beauty. Especially that pair of moist and lively eyes, that were like a sea filled with endless stars.

She was no longer the ignorant countryside girl and ugly duckling.

However, what use was that now?

Ning Xi smiled bitterly, before she had her revenge, she would fall to her death here...

However, before dying, at least she had done a good deed in saving the little bun.

If her child had not died back then, he would probably be around this age.....

After the car accident five years ago, in shame, the Ning family had sent her away to a university specialising in accepting wayward children of the elite in America, leaving her to fend for herself.

She withdrew from that university and reapplied for the University of South California, almost going crazy in her pursuit of all kinds of knowledge.

Because she wanted to defeat Ning Xueluo, and take back everything that was hers!

Most importantly, acting was the biggest dream of her life.

After returning to her homeland, using this face and a solid foundation of acting skill, she was spotted by Chang Li, and successfully entered the industry's largest company, Starlight Entertainment.

She should have had a bright future from then, but Ning Xueluo followed her into Starlight, and through bribing Chang Li, was suppressing her from all directions.....

HM Chapter 5

Chapter 5: We Found Little Young Master

At the same time, in the reception room of the Eton Bar, the atmosphere was heavy.

The boss of the bar, the managers, security, and all related staff were standing in a row with great trepidation. All of them had expressions showing that disaster was about to fall upon them.

Because the Lu Corporation's little prince, Lu Tingxiao's precious son, had gone missing in their bar.

On the sofa, Lu Tingxiao's face was chilly as always; not a single shred of extra feeling was showing on that ice statue. However, the pressure of a superior was pressing on each person present, causing their legs to soften and their sweat to fall like the rain. No one dared to utter a single word.

A young man was kneeling by his feet, face full of tears and snot, "Brother, I'm sorry! It's all my fault! I shouldn't have brought Little Treasure to a bar! If anything happens to Little Treasure, then I won't live any longer!"

As he finished speaking, a kick was thrown at his chest.

The sound of bone breaking made their scalps tingle, everyone present shook a little.

Lu Jingli clutched at his chest and coughed fiercely for a while, before immediately crawling back up and kneeling with a straight back again.

Their parents were still overseas on holiday, and have not heard that Little Treasure was lost. If they were to find out, then it would not be settled with a simple kick from his older brother, he could even be flayed alive.

Lu Jingli's heart was currently like dead ashes; completely ashamed. Suddenly,

a knock sounded on the door of the reception room.

The boss, who was the closest to the door, opened it. Seeing that there was no one at the door, he was still wondering about it when he bent his head, and was stunned: “Little.... Little young master!!!”

“Little Treasure.....? Heavens! Little Treasure! Second Uncle’s precious baby! Where did you run off to?” Lu Jingli crawled up from the ground to embrace the little guy tightly, he was so emotional that he burst into tears.

Everyone in the room held an expression of having survived death.

Lu Tingxiao walked a few steps to the door, then grabbed Lu Jingli’s collar to throw him away. He squatted down in front of his son, “What happened?”

After finally getting out of the clutches of his second uncle, Little Treasure grabbed onto Lu Tingxiao’s hand, anxiously trying to tug him outside.

Just as Lu Tingxiao got closer to his son, he smelled the strong scent of alcohol from his body. There was also a hint of a subtle fragrance, not the pungent smell of a perfume, but more like a flower that had bloomed on a glacier. The cool fragrance was inexplicably familiar to him, to the point that his heart skipped a beat for a moment.

Seeing that Lu Tingxiao was not moving, Little Treasure pointed in a certain direction, anxiously making hoarse ‘huh huh’ sounds from his throat.

Lu Tingxiao picked up his son, and headed straight in the direction that his son was pointing in.

The people behind him, including Lu Jingli, saw that something was up and exchanged gazes before following.

Five minutes later, the group of people stopped in front of a storeroom on the top floor.

Little Treasure twisted his body and dropped down from his father’s body, and beat at the storeroom’s door with all his strength, looking extremely anxious.

“Little Treasure, what’s happening? What’s inside?” Lu Jingli was confused.

Lu Tingxiao ordered expressionlessly: “Open the door.”

“Yes yes yes!” The boss of the bar nodded his head, then turned to scold the female manager at his side, “Manager Ye, what are you waiting for? Quickly open the door! Where’s the key?”

“Ah..... O-Open the door?” The female manager was stunned.

Oh no! That woman, Ning Xi, was still locked in there! She promised Chang Li to keep her at least until the audition was over!

However, with these two gods from the Lu family and the boss waiting, how could she possibly refuse? She could only tremble and pull out the key to open the door.

Once the door was opened, a woman lying unconscious on the floor came into view.

“What’s going on? Why is there a woman in there?” The boss raged.

“I..... I don’t know! There wasn’t anyone in there when I last checked!” The female manager suppressed the guilt in her heart and explained.

“Quickly! Just save that person first!”

Just as someone attempted to get close to Ning Xi, Little Treasure immediately threw himself onto Ning Xi’s body. His little face held a ferocious expression, not letting anyone near.

HM Chapter 6

Chapter 6: The Sparkling Little Prince

“President Lu, this.....” The owner of the bar had a face full of bewilderment, and was failing to understand the current situation.

Lu Tingxiao’s gaze swept across the female manager, whose face was completely showing her guilt. He then swept an eye across the ladder on the ground and the skylight that was only about the size of a small child, and was able to guess most of what had happened.

He raised his hand to let everyone retreat, then he walked over and personally picked the woman up.

That faintly cool fragrance was even more distinct in his embrace.

Seeing that Lu Tingxiao had already gone over to carry the woman, Little Treasure did not stop him, but his face showed his unwillingness. He showed an expression that spoke of his inner thoughts: ‘If I wasn’t too small, I would definitely have carried her myself’.

.....

The First People’s Hospital in Beijing.

By the time Ning Xi woke up, it was already the next morning.

The first thing she saw when she opened her eyes was the man sitting in the chair at the window opposite her.

His slender legs crossed carelessly, he was wearing a fitted tailored suit outlining his broad shoulders and slim waist, with the white shirt buttons meticulously fastened up to his collar. Although he was clearly under the morning sunlight, his body seemed to be cloaked in a layer of ancient everlasting ice, his indifferent expression was like that of a king in a medieval castle.....

The man seemed to have detected her gaze, and abruptly lifted that pair of ocean-deep eyes. His cold gaze seemed to pierce right through her.

That line of sight was too aggressive, like a sharpened scalpel, peeling her open inch by inch, giving her the creeps.

After trying to ignore him for a while, Ning Xi could no longer care about how uncomfortable this stranger's gaze made her feel. She asked with an anxious expression: "Excuse me, mister, how did I get here? Did you see a little boy? About four or five years old, doesn't really like to talk? He's really white and soft, and looks a little dazed and cute!"

Cute.....

The man slightly raised his brow from Ning Xi's description, he shifted his gaze to her right, and spoke with a voice as cold as his person, "You mean Little Treasure?"

Ning Xi quickly followed the ice statue man's line of sight, only to see a white, soft little bun sleeping soundly on the little cot next to hers with an IV attached to the back of his hand, "Yes, it's him! He's called Little Treasure?"

Ning Xi finally let out a sigh of relief, and turned over to touch the little bun's forehead, at least his fever had already broken.

She had started to regret a little after letting the child out previously. The child was so young after all, and he was even running a fever. What if something had happened to him after he had gone out alone into a place as messy as a bar?

Ning Xi looked towards the ice statue man, who had a formidable atmosphere around him, "You're this child's...?"

After speaking those words, Ning Xi found that she had just wasted her breath.

This man and the little bun were so alike, it was as if they had been carved out of the same mold. They were definitely biologically father and son.

Sure enough, Ice Statue replied: "Father."

"Hey, little beauty, you're awake! I'm Little Treasure's second uncle!"

A large face suddenly popped over from the side, and Ning Xi subconsciously retreated a little. After looking clearly at the man's face, she went into a daze,

“Lu... Lu Jingli?”

The Lu Corporation’s second son, the owner of Golden Age Entertainment, had appeared in more newspapers and magazines than most artistes due to his eye-catching appearance and amorous personality.

She absolutely could not make a mistake in recognising this face.

Ice Statue was Little Treasure’s father, Lu Jingli was Little Treasure’s second uncle...

Then wasn’t Ice Statue Lu Jingli’s older brother Lu Tingxiao?

Lu Tingxiao, the god of wealth as termed by the people; he was like the uncrowned emperor of the capital!

She could never have imagined that the little boy she had saved, would turn out to be Lu Tingxiao’s legendary bastard son, the golden sparkling little prince...

HM Chapter 7

Chapter 7: Big Bun Wants to Repay with His Body

Lu Tingxiao sized up the woman on the bed probingly, as if he was trying to tell if the expression of surprise on her face was real.

After a long while, it seemed as if he finally believed that she had not known of Little Treasure's identity. He then spoke up coolly, "Your request."

"Uh, what request?" Ning Xi did not understand the words that had appeared out of nowhere.

"My brother wants to thank you for saving Little Treasure, he's asking you to state your request!" Lu Jingli had the expression 'you struck gold this time' written all over his face.

Hearing this, the gears in Ning Xi's head spun quickly as she cautiously said, "You really don't need to thank me. It's true that I saved Little Treasure, but he also saved me. If it weren't for Little Treasure going out to call for help, then I would still be shut in there right now, so we can be considered even."

Although she was really lucky to have saved the little prince, how could she dare to claim a reward for it? The more money someone had, the more prone they were to paranoid delusions of being schemed against. Furthermore, this was the super rich, top-class elite Lu family they were talking about, it was already amazing that they were not suspecting her of directing the whole incident. Didn't you see how warily Lu Tingxiao had been looking at her just now?

To avoid extra suffering later on, it was best to even out the relations between them.

Ning Xi had thought that there was no issue with her answer, but Lu Tingxiao's expression remained displeased, causing a burst of fright in her heart.

Did she say something wrong? Why was his expression so scary?

“Brother, don’t put on such a scary expression! We know you’re trying to repay a debt of gratitude, but those who know nothing about the situation will think you’re trying to take revenge!” Lu Jingli could not bear seeing a beauty suffering fright, so he spoke up to break the ice. He then turned to Ning Xi and said, “My brother doesn’t like to owe others, you should just request something! No need to be polite!”

There were even people that would force others into bringing up a request?

The corner of her mouth twitched, “It’s not that I’m being polite, you really don’t need to repay me. What I said was the truth, if you don’t believe me, you can go check...”

“No need.” Lu Tingxiao spoke simply and to the point. His face was starting to show hints of impatience.

Lu Jingli spoke up, “There was surveillance footage of the bar’s storeroom. I’ve already seen it, Little Treasure ran in on his own. As for you, the manager of the bar has already admitted that she was the one who locked you in, so you don’t need to worry, we don’t suspect your intentions. Since you did save Little Treasure, just ask for something!”

Great, we’re right back where we started!

In the end, Ning Xi had no other choice. Under Lu Tingxiao’s increasingly forceful gaze, she summoned up her courage to say, “Then... how about you give me money?”

The rich like to resolve debts in this simple and straightforward manner right?

Lu Tingxiao should also be the type to like solving problems with money!

If she didn’t ask for money, then wouldn’t they think that she was eyeing something else? If not money, then people?

Just as Ning Xi was assured that this was the most appropriate request she could put forward, Lu Tingxiao’s expression became even uglier.

Ning Xi was on the verge of tears. Why did he have to be so taciturn? If you have something to say, just say it out! Would speaking a few more words kill

you?

Lu Jingli, the translating machine, rubbed his nose, “My brother thinks that just giving you money would be too insulting.”

Ning Xi was howling in her heart: It’s okay!! Just insult me!!!!

The Lu family’s status was too special and she just could not think of an appropriate request at the moment. Just as they were about to come to a deadlock, Lu Tingxiao spoke up—“Marry me.”

Ning Xi went completely lifeless for a second, before coughing fiercely, almost choking to death on her own spit, “Cough cough cough.....what did you say?”

After finally managing to stop her coughing, she hurriedly turned towards Lu Jingli with intensity.

Second Young Master, please translate!!!

However, this time it was not only Ning Xi, but also Lu Jingli who was completely dazed. “Brother, what do you mean? I can’t even translate for you this time!”

At this moment, good fortune arrived and a lightbulb went off in Ning Xi’s head. She said falteringly, “Don’t tell me you’ve decided to repay me with your body because I saved your son?”

Lu Tingxiao inclined his head slightly. After slight thought, he nodded, “You could put it that way.”

HM Chapter 8

Chapter 8: Aren't You Gay?

Ning Xi strongly felt like she was in a dream as she looked at the iceberg-like man who had said such shocking words with an expressionless face. She held her forehead weakly, "Doctor... where's the doctor? I think I may have damaged my brain in the fall, I'm having hallucinations...."

Next to her, Lu Jingli had an innocent expression, "I didn't even fall but I think my brain got damaged too?"

At this moment in time, no matter how strong Ning Xi's heart had become after getting abused a million times over, she could not accept the truth before her.

She had saved a little bun, and now the little bun's father wanted to repay her with his body?

If this were someone else, then it would be fine. If they were somewhat handsome, then she could still treat it as a romantic affair.

However, this was Lu Tingxiao they were talking about, Lu Tingxiao ah!!!

Based on appearance, she did have some looks to speak of, but what kind of person was Lu Tingxiao? Surely he had already seen countless peerless beauties.

If he had only taken a liking to her, she would not have been so shocked. If Lu Tingxiao had wanted to play with her after seeing her face, she could still understand, but what he had said was 'Marry me', this was practically turning into horror.

Most importantly...

"Aren't you gay?" Ning Xi blurted.

"Bwahahaha...." Lu Jingli laughed until he fell.

Lu Tingxiao's face became as black as the underside of a pot, the whole ward became shrouded in dark clouds instantly.

After a long while, Lu Jingli finally managed to hold back his laughter, "If my brother was gay, then where did Little Treasure come from?"

"Well, surrogacy, artificial insemination?"

"If my brother was gay, then why would he want to repay you with his body!"

"To cover up his real sexual orientation?"

"Hahahahaha bro I can't help you anymore..."

"I also heard... that the two of you are..." Ning Xi's gaze subtly shifted between the two brothers.

"Cough cough cough...." Lu Jingli was frightened to the point of choking, "Shit, that kind of taste is too heavy for me! Although I'm so handsome that I can go for both the men and the ladies...."

At this time, the center of the storm slowly stood up from his chair, his slender legs were moving closer to Ning Xi with every step, "Jingli, bring Little Treasure out."

"Ah? Brother, what do you want to do?"

Lu Tingxiao slowly fixed the cuff of his sleeve, "Proving my sexual orientation to Miss Ning."

Seeing the other's dark expression and the gaze that wanted to completely devour her, Ning Xi was so scared that she fell out of bed. She retreated behind Little Treasure, this close to just jumping underneath the bed.

"Mr Lu, I didn't start any of this, it was all nonsense I heard from outside! You should chase all this back to the source! Also, you really, really don't need to thank me, if you absolutely, definitely want me to give you a request, then I request that you please do not ask me for another request.... Ah, sorry, I have a very important audition coming up later, I have to go now! We'll meet again if we're fated okay~!"

Ning Xi spit out her words quickly and prepared to sneak away.

However, after just a few steps, Lu Tingxiao's cold voice came from behind her, "Did I permit you to leave?"

Ning Xi was so frightened that her legs began to shiver.

My life comes to an end now!

After a few seconds, under her death-awaiting gaze, Lu Tingxiao passed her a piece of paper and a pen, "Could I trouble Miss Ning to leave Little Treasure a note, so that he won't worry about you when he wakes up?"

Just.... Just like that?

She survived a close shave!

"Yes yes yes no problem! I can even write ten thousand words!" Ning Xi heaved a huge sigh of relief, and picked up the pen to start writing briskly.

Once done writing, deathly afraid of a sudden turn of events, she quickly sprinted off.

Watching the girl leave, the man had a deep expression, as if he were watching prey that had already been collared.

After Ning Xi had left, Lu Jingli immediately sidled up to his brother and bounced, "Brother, am I dreaming? You really fancy Ning Xi? It's already been 32 years, even perseverance was about to fail soon, and you haven't taken a liking to any girls. Even I, your dear brother, was starting to suspect if you were bent..."

The moment the word 'bent' came out, his brother threw out the words: "Shut up."

"Yes." Lu Jingli choked.

He really wanted to ask! Having to stifle this stomach full of curiosity was going to kill him!

HM Chapter 9

Chapter 9: I'm Not Here To Try For The Female Lead

Original and most updated translations are from volaretranslations. Since it was the rush hour, traffic was especially bad. When Ning Xi arrived, she was already late.

Chang Li and Ning Xueluo were smiling from ear to ear as they stepped out of the audition building. They were surrounded by a crowd that offered congratulations.

Seeing Ning Xi from afar, sweating as she hurried to the building, Ning Xueluo looked at her with the same gaze from five years ago.

It was the gaze of a deity looking down on an ant.

A trail of dust was left behind as Ning Xueluo arrogantly left on her minivan. Ning Xi quickly ran into the building after seeing Ning Xueluo depart.

It wasn't too late!

Suddenly, Ning Xi ran into a group of people who were chatting cheerfully as they were walking. They were the panel judges for the 《Land Under Heaven》 auditions.

"Sorry, I'm late!" Ning Xi bowed deeply.

Seeing that Ning Xi had blocked their path and interrupted them, a couple of the judges exchanged looks, clearly unhappy.

No one liked people who were late.

The assistant director kept a straight face, "The audition is already over. What's the point in rushing over here? Youngsters are getting more and more unreliable these days!"

"I'm not here to try out for the lead role!" Ning Xi started talking.

“Oh? You’re not here to try for the female lead? Then what are auditioning for?” The screenwriter asked with interest.

“I’m here to try out for the supporting female lead, Meng Changge! As far as I know, you weren’t able to find a suitable actress for the supporting lead during the last auditions!” Ning Xi lifted her head before the screenwriter could respond to her words.

The instant Ning Xi lifted her head, the surroundings turned quiet for five seconds. The unfriendly assistant director was awestruck.

What he saw was a girl with full lips, white teeth, waist-long ebony hair, in a crimson dress. Her brilliance could not be suppressed by such a vibrant colour; instead it helped enhance her beauty.

She was just standing there calmly, yet it was almost as if she was standing in a forest of floating mist. She seemed like a fox spirit with a thousand years of cultivation; that pair of mesmerising eyes would make a person drop their guard and fall into that endless spring of beauty in just an instant. Although her cultivation was that of a spirit fox, she seemed like a fairy who had never stepped on the ground. Her eyes held a lustrous depth.

“What’s your name?” As if they had been lost in a beautiful dream, many of the judges regained their senses only after director Guo Qischeng spoke.

“Ning Xi.”

Director Guo spoke after exchanging glances with the assistant director, screenwriter and film producer “I have some recollection of you, you’re one of Starlight’s artists right? You can go back to prepare, the supporting female lead is yours! You will be notified when filming starts.”

“Thank you director, I will prepare well!” Ning Xi bowed to express her gratitude.

Ning Xi’s target had always been the supporting female lead.

She had been preparing this role for three months by trying to completely understand Meng Changge’s character. Making all the effort to impress the judges with just a single glance.

Fortunately, she had succeeded despite some setbacks.

Director Guo exclaimed after Ning Xi had left, "We looked all over for an actress, and the moment we stopped looking, we found the perfect one! Her qualifications are too poor despite being signed to Starlight Entertainment. With her acting record, I didn't even consider her for the female lead. Though I had never imagined that she would be far more beautiful than in her pictures!"

Screenwriter Ye Linglong couldn't suppress his excitement either, "Most importantly, her aura was on point, that gaze from before was too fitting. Meng Changge was a righteous female general before she became the downfall of the nation. She could be pretty and coquettish, yet she would maintain a pure demeanor and state of mind. She could never be vulgar. All the artists that came to audition before acted out brothel courtesans for me, I was fuming!"

"Haha, don't get worked up, haven't we finally found the Changge we've been waiting for?"

.....

At the same time, in B City, The First People's Hospital.

The VIP hospital room that Little Bun was in was currently in a state of chaos.

The little guy was huddled on the windowsill with bare feet. He was frustrated and screaming at the top of his lungs. No matter how the doctors and nurses tried to persuade him, he wouldn't come down.

Lu Jingli was cajoling him like the most precious person in his heart, but it couldn't be helped that his efforts were completely ignored by the other.

Lu Tingxiao had just been called back to his company, but with no other options left, Lu Jingli had to call him.

HM Chapter 10

Chapter 10: Little Bun Suddenly Goes on a Rampage

Original and most updated translations are from volaretranslations.

“Brother, you’re finally here! Your Little Treasure was just fine a while ago, but he suddenly started going on a rampage!”

“What happened?” Lu Tingxiao asked in a low voice.

“I don’t know what happened either. After he woke up, he was searching everywhere for someone. I thought that he might be searching for Ning Xi, so I told him to stop looking, the pretty lady had already left. As soon as I finished talking, he started his rampage. Little Treasure seems to like Ning Xi a lot, but it shouldn’t be to the point where he would get this agitated by just hearing that she left!”

Also, it had been a long time since Little Treasure had shown such intense and turbulent emotions.

After hearing what had happened, Lu Tingxiao walked straight towards his son.

Seeing Lu Tingxiao come closer, the little guy immediately retreated backwards warily. His eyes were filled with caution and aversion, he wasn’t going to stop, even for his own father.

Lu Tingxiao stopped when he was three steps away from his son. He said in a calm and steady tone: “When your second uncle told you that the lady had already left, that was exactly what he meant. There was nothing wrong with her health, so she has already left the hospital to go home. She didn’t die, it’s not like when your grandmother left and never came back, understand?”

It was perhaps only when facing his son that Lu Tingxiao would have such patience, having so much to say.

Lu Jingli gaped, “Are you kidding me? I only said those two words, ‘she left’,

and his mind made such a huge leap?"

Xiao Bao had personally seen Ning Xi fall down and had already experienced a big fright. Under such emotional turmoil, he couldn't be blamed for misunderstanding the situation.

Little Treasure briefly stopped screaming after hearing Lu Tingxiao's explanation. He refused to move while burying his head and curling up on the windowsill.

Seeing this, Lu Tingxiao took out a slip of paper, "She left this for you, are you going to look at it?"

Little Treasure's body twitched once, as if a switch had been turned on. He quickly raised his head and opened his little arms, indicating that he wanted his father to hug him.

Lu Jingli: "....."

The doctors and nurses at the scene: "....."

Everyone in the room had been put through the wringer to the point of breaking down, yet Lu Tingxiao managed to end the matter with a slip of paper?

Lu Jingli had originally thought that asking Ning Xi for a note was entirely unnecessary, but now he was completely convinced.

Lu Tingxiao carried his son to the sofa and sat down, then handed the paper slip to him.

The little guy eagerly received it. He had learned to recognize words a long time ago, and could already read on his own.

[Darling, thank you for saving me, you're amazing XOXO~]

Looking at the words on the slip, and the heart drawn at the end of it, the little guy's eyes were sparkling. He even had a faint blush on his cheeks. Even though he tightened his lips reservedly, the corners of his mouth could not resist faintly quirking up. His demeanor was especially cute.

Lu Jingli looked as if he had just seen a ghost. "What the ****, was I just blinded? Our Little Treasure actually smiled! I can't even remember how long it's been since I last saw him smile! What exactly did Ning Xi write?"

Lu Jingli wanted to sneak a peek, but Little Treasure immediately hid it like it was a precious treasure.

However, Lu Jingli's sharp eyes had already seen it. It was just a fairly ordinary note, yet it could make Little Treasure so happy? This Ning Xi was remarkable!

Lu Tingxiao gazed warmly at his son without speaking.

After Little Treasure had woken up, Lu Tingxiao immediately brought him home. In addition, he postponed all his work at the company to stay with Little Treasure at home.

.....

At night, in Platinum Palace's villa No. 8.

The huge living room was icy cold. An adult and a child sat facing each other across the dining table with matching cold expressions.

Lu Tingxiao: "Eat your food."

Little Treasure turned a deaf ear.

Lu Tingxiao: "I'm saying this for the last time."

Little Treasure didn't even twitch.

Lu Tingxiao: "Do you think that this kind of childish hunger strike would work against me?"

Little Treasure was like a meditating old monk, completely immersed in his own world, isolated from the outside world.

The duo continued to confront one another.

After one hour.

Lu Tingxiao called Lu Jingli: "Send me Ning Xi's address."

Okay, so this had proved that hunger strikes did work on him.

Lu Jingli was extremely efficient as he immediately sent Ning Xi's exact address to his older brother's cell phone. Following that was a huge pile of gossip, which was completely ignored by Lu Tingxiao.

This time, Lu Tingxiao didn't even need to say anything. The moment Little

Treasure saw his father picking up his jacket and car keys, he immediately followed his father's every step.

Lu Tingxiao helplessly picked up his son after a single glance at the little bun standing by his feet, "There won't be a next time."

HM Chapter 11

Chapter 11: Big Bun Plus Little Bun

Original and most updated translations are from volaretranslations.

The first thing Ning Xi did after returning home was taking a nap to restore her lost sleep.

After she woke up, she went to the supermarket. She bought the ingredients and side dishes, including beer, for a hot pot.

With her first battle won, she was going to have a hot pot celebration at home!

Eating hotpot alone, it was as lonely as one could get...

At least she was already used to it after being more of a loner all this time.

There was a knock on the door right as she was about to start cooking.

Who was visiting at this time?

Ning Xi became stunned as pulled the door open suspiciously.

Lu Tingxiao was standing outside the door dressed in a snappy western suit, with a dark outer coat.

Little bun was being carried in his arms while he was holding a colourful fruit basket.

This... What kind of strange combination is this?

“Mr Lu?” Ning Xi swallowed in fright, “Why the surprise at this hour? Is there something the matter?”

Lu Tingxiao’s thin lips let out two words, “Sick visit.”

Sick visit?

He personally came to visit this late at night, even bringing little bun along?

It was only a small injury, she's still alive and jumping.....

"Er, you're being too polite, Mr Lu. Sorry about the mess, please come in" Ning Xi didn't have time to react. She simply invited them in, flattered yet stunned. She speedily tidied up the whole room as she removed the junk from the couch and shoved the piles of clothing under the bed....

"Sit anywhere you'd like, do you want to have something to drink? Is green tea or milk okay?" While keeping busy, Ning Xi was wracking her brains trying to guess why Lu Tingxiao had come. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to guess the reason no matter how much she tried since Lu Tingxiao's train of thought was too deep "Sure." Lu Tingxiao nodded with the expression of a commander replying to a soldier who had just reported on a military situation.

Ning Xi could only remain confused as she brewed a cup of tea for Lu Tingxiao and poured a cup of milk for little bun.

Lu Tingxiao was cramped awkwardly on the narrow sofa in the living room with little bun sitting by his side.

The father and son pair not only looked alike, but their expressions were also exactly the same.

They were expressionless.

Silent.

The scene turned awkward.

Ning Xi was close to tears while seated opposite them.

Geez, what were these two here for?

At this moment, gurgling sounds came from the pot. The air began to fill with an enticing spicy aroma.

For the sake of breaking the silence, Ning Xi casually asked, "So, have you guys had dinner yet? I was about to have a hotpot, do you want to eat together?"

Lu Tingxiao: "Okay."

Little bun nodded.

Ning Xi: "....."

She was only asking out of courtesy, were they trying to pick a fight by agreeing just like that?

One is a CEO, while the other is a little young master. They had probably tasted all sorts of delicacies before. Why did they run here to have a small shabby household hot pot with commoners like her?

Ning Xi felt a little embarrassed at the poor offerings.

However, she had already spoken. So she could only bite the bullet and invite them to the dining table, adding two more pairs of chopsticks.

“The soup base I bought is quite spicy, can you take spicy foods?” Ning Xi asked worriedly.

Lu Tingxiao: “Yes.”

Little bun nodded.

Okay then.....

Ning Xi brought the freshly washed ingredients over.

Lu Tingxiao did not eat much, he was cooking for them most of the time. On the other hand, little bun loved spicy food as much as she did. He still kept eating despite sticking out his tongue due to the spiciness.

Ning Xi finally got a little worried, “Is it bad for children to eat too much spice?”

She could not afford the consequences if anything happened to this little prince.

“Not that delicate.” Lu Tingxiao thought her worries were unfounded.

With that, Ning Xi kept any other opinions to herself.

The silent cool-headed Lu Tingxiao suddenly took the initiative to speak up, “How was the audition?”

Ning Xi froze for a moment before reacting.

She replied, “It was fairly smooth, so I made a hotpot as a celebration today!”

Lu Tingxiao raised his glass, “Congratulations.”

She hadn't really expected that Lu Tingxiao would be the first person to congratulate her.....

HM Chapter 12

Chapter 12: Staying Overnight

Support the translator by reading *Hidden Marriage* on [volaretranslations](http://volaretranslations.com).

Ning Xi gently toasted his glass with the beer in her hands. She showed a smile that came from the depths of her heart, “Thank you!”

The moment the girl’s smile blossomed, Lu Tingxiao shook subtly for a moment.

Ning Xi looked towards Little bun at the side, “I’m especially grateful to Little Treasure, I wouldn’t have been able to make it to the audition in time if it weren’t for him! Here darling, let me toast you!”

Little Treasure looked at his cup of milk, then at Ning Xi and Daddy’s beers. Although reluctant, he finally raised his cup to toast with Ning Xi. He then downed the rest of the milk in one gulp.

Ning Xi couldn’t help but laugh at his serious demeanour. He probably knows how to act like an adult drowning their sorrows in drink too?

Lu Tingxiao went to the balcony to take a call halfway through the meal.

Ning Xi immediately pressed close to Little Treasure’s side. She handed her beer over to him, “Heh heh! Curious about the taste? Quickly, taste it while your dad isn’t here! You can only have a small mouthful though!”

Little Treasure’s eyes lit up like stars in the night sky, he lowered his head and carefully took a small sip.

He felt extremely happy even though the taste was horrible.

Ning Xi immediately sat up when Lu Tingxiao returned from his call, acting as if nothing had happened.

Little Treasure was even more professional. He slowly drank his milk,

completely unflustered.

Lu Tingxiao looked as if he had not noticed anything, but a glimmer of warmth flashed in his eyes as he sat down with a normal expression.

The three of them had good appetites. They managed to finish everything even though she bought a lot of ingredients.

Ning Xi was thinking it was time for them to leave as it was getting quite late. Suddenly, lightning flashed across the sky. Shortly after, thunder started booming loudly and fierce winds started to blow outside.....

"I saw that the weather forecast predicted heavy rain and typhoon for tonight....."

Ning Xi stared at the pouring rain outside the window with a troubled expression. Little bun and Lu Tingxiao both looked at Ning Xi.....

After getting stared at by the pair, Ning Xi could only say, "Going back with Little Treasure at this time is a little dangerous since it's already this late and the weather isn't looking too favourable. Maybe you could stay over here for tonight?"

She had extended the offer purely out of courtesy, she thought there was no way Lu Tingxiao would agree. The result being.....

Lu Tingxiao: "Okay."

Little bun nodded.

WHAT!? why did you agree again.....

Lu Tingxiao was way too easy going!

Why did she have a feeling the pair had just been waiting for her to make the offer?

She was going crazy!!!

Just like that, Lu Tingxiao and Little Treasure were going to stay over in the end.

The apartment that her company had arranged for her was not that large, it only had a living room and a bedroom. The sleeping arrangements were indeed a

problem.

"I'll sleep in the living room for tonight. Mr Lu, is it okay if you sleep with Little Treasure in my room? I'll go change the bedsheets....."

"No, I'll sleep in the living room, you should sleep with Little Treasure in the bedroom." Lu Tingxiao stated with a tone that would not accept any protest.

Ning Xi felt that she was digging holes for herself. Not only had she invited CEO Lu to eat a cheap hotpot, she was even making him sleep in the living room.

She wouldn't have let Lu Tingxiao stay if he were the only one here. Especially after what Lu Tingxiao had said in the day, and it being only the two of them under the same roof.

Out of consideration of little bun however, she didn't have a choice.

It was too dangerous to let him bring a child back in this weather. It couldn't be considered a couple left alone together since little bun was here.....right?

Ning Xi could only resign herself to her fate, "I'll see if I can find a change of clothes for both of you....."

She was able to find a change of clothes for them after rummaging through her closet.

HM Chapter 13

Chapter 13: It's Not Easy to Raise a Child

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

She found a set of child-sized pajamas shaped like a Pikachu that Little Treasure could wear. She had gotten them when she was working part-time and had just casually tossed them in the closet.

It was easier to settle the change of clothes for Lu Tingxiao since her little brother had left a few sets of clothes with her.

Ning Xi had felt that she had let down her adoptive parents after reuniting with her biological parents, so did not have the face to meet them. She rarely contacted them and only kept in touch with her little brother Tang Nuo.

Ning Xi returned to the room to grab a set of new bed sheets and pillow covers after having found the clothes.

The sofa in the living room was not big enough for Lu Tingxiao to stretch his long legs. She could only move a stool over to add length to the makeshift bed.

She didn't have to worry at all for Little Treasure. He washed himself in the bath and put on the cute pajamas by himself, then instinctively headed for the bed to lay down.

Ning Xi finished bathing and changed into a more conservative pair of pajamas. She walked out after checking that she looked decent.

"That... Mr Lu, I'm going to sleep first. Call me if you need anything."

"Yes." Lu Tingxiao's gaze lost focus as he looked at the freshly bathed Ning Xi. The depths of his eyes darkened overwhelmingly.

The girl was wearing the most ordinary pair of pajamas and had her hair tied into a bun. She had a fresh face and her smooth skin held a natural flush from

the steam of the shower.

He could tell that Ning Xi had dressed conservatively. There was nothing inappropriate with her image.

However, the situation inside Lu Tingxiao's heart was a little hard to describe. He had discovered that a certain part of his lower body was faintly raising its head.....

Ning Xi entered her bedroom and suddenly saw that her bedroom had an additional cute little creature. She was put into a wonderful mood.

A lot of things had developed beyond her expectations since last night.

"Sleep soon." She switched off the ceiling light and left the lamp by her bedside switched on. She laid down next to little bun.

Little Bun blinked, seemingly not having the slightest urge to sleep.

Ning Xi started to have a headache.

It seemed like kids needed stories read out to them before they would go to sleep.....

Ning Xi shrugged helplessly, "I don't know how to tell stories. What if I sing a song for you?"

Little Bun became filled with anticipation as he nodded.

Thus Ning Xi gently patted Little Bun's back as she started to sing softly:

In the warm and cold autumn days,

Staying close by your side,

Quietly watching time fly by.

Those red leaves amongst the wind

Caused my heart to be at peace.

Between wakefulness and drunkenness,

Resisting the urge to smile.

Let me be like the snow in the clouds,

Raining cold gentle kisses on faces

With endless feelings of lingering,

Flows endless love in humanity.

Welcoming the thousand changes of life.....

Ning Xi suddenly paused in her singing since the next line was “Having sex with a lover”.....

Yikes! Weren’t these lyrics a bit inappropriate for the young?

She should switch to another song.....

Ning Xi coughed once, “Auntie will sing another song for you since auntie forgot the next line!”

Little Bun nodded obediently.

Ning Xi wracked her brains to think of a more child-friendly song:

Jack and Jill went up the hill

To fetch a pail of water.

Jack fell down and broke his crown,

And Jill came tumbling after.

Up Jack got, and home did trot,

As fast as he could caper,

He went to bed to mend his head,

With vinegar and brown paper.

It was only after singing *<Jack and Jill>* three times that she heard sweet snoring start from her side.

It wasn’t easy to raise children!

She suddenly felt admiration for Lu Tingxiao as a single dad.

She wondered who little bun’s mother was. Why did she give birth to little bun and leave Lu Tingxiao?

Was it because her status was too low for the Lu family to accept?

Was it because Lu Tingxiao had some unseen complications?

Ning Xi slowly fell asleep while going off into wild flights of fancy.....

At midnight, Ning Xi was shocked awake by a sudden muffled sound from the living room.

HM Chapter 14

Chapter 14: It's Easy to Lose Control

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She carefully moved off the bed to see what had happened since little bun was sleeping very soundly.

She saw Lu Tingxiao pouring some water to drink after pushing open the bedroom door. One hand was covering his stomach and his face looked pale.

Ning Xi hurriedly went over, “Mister Lu, are you ok?”

“Nothing big.”

“Hmm, does your stomach hurt?”

Lu Tingxiao didn’t reply.

Ning Xi knew that she had guessed right.

Lu Tingxiao actually couldn’t eat spicy things. Yet why would he attempt to eat anyways?

“Wait a bit, I’ll get you some stomach medicine.”

Fortunately, she had the most common medicines at home.

Ning Xi hurriedly brought over the stomach medicine, “You have to eat both pills.”

“Thank you.” Lu Tingxiao took the pills from her palm. His slightly cold fingers grazing lightly on her palm felt as if they were grazing the tip of her heart. It suddenly made her feel weak.

In the still quiet of the windy and stormy night, it was too easy to lose control with this kind of beauty in front of her!

Ning Xi silently chanted the digits of Pi until she could calm her heart down.

Looking at Lu Tingxiao eating the medicine, she accompanied him for a while since it wasn't polite to leave immediately.

"Are you a little better now? Do you need to go to the hospital? I'm sorry, I didn't know you couldn't eat spicy foods....."

Originally she was worried about little bun. In the end nothing happened to little bun, but something happened to Lu Tingxiao instead! What would this be called.....

"Not your fault, it's just an old problem."

Lu Tingxiao suddenly opened his mouth after the two were silent for a bit: "The reason for intruding on your hospitality tonight was because Little Treasure wanted to see you."

Ning Xi wasn't sure if he'd made a slip of the tongue, "Little Treasure wanted to see me?"

"Little Treasure had suffered a big fright in the warehouse. He's very reliant on you now since you saved him." Lu Tingxiao explained.

Ning Xi found that as long as Little Treasure was nearby, or if someone brought up questions regarding Little Treasure, the piercing cold atmosphere around Lu Tingxiao would weaken a lot. He wasn't as scary as was earlier during daytime.

"So it was like this....." Ning Xi nodded her head.

This kind of night was easy to cause people to let down their defenses and reservations. Ning Xi asked a question that had been bothering her for a while, "Umm, taking the liberty to ask. Does Little Treasure not know how to speak?"

Even up until today, she had never heard Little Treasure utter a single word. The little fellow would only nod or shake his head.

"More so than not knowing how to talk, he doesn't want to talk." Lu Tingxiao answered.

"Then it's a problem of the heart?" Ning Xi frowned.

"Little Treasure is a bit closed off. He tends to shut himself away." Lu Tingxiao didn't hide anything.

“It’s like this.....” It was pretty much what she had guessed.

As to why Little Treasure would shut himself away, this kind of rich family’s secret, she naturally would not dare to ask about more deeply.

“Miss Ning.” Lu Tingxiao suddenly focused his gaze on her. Those eyes were bright, cold and calm. Yet it gave her a feeling of being so fiery that it would burn a body into ashes.

“Yes?” Ning Xi gave a slight start at the gaze.

“Have we met somewhere before?” Lu Tingxiao asked.

If these words were spoken by someone else, Ning Xi would definitely think the other side was trying to strike up a conversation. Using an obsolete/old way at that too. But the person speaking was Lu Tingxiao, the bewilderment in his eyes were real.

“We probably haven’t. Even if I had seen Mr. Lu before, there’s no way I wouldn’t have an impression...but is there some problem?” Ning Xi’s tone was still considered firm. With her status, she couldn’t have met a person at Lu Tingxiao’s level. That would be the case even when she was still the Ning family’s young miss.

“Nothing.” Lu Tingxiao shifted his gaze, his eyes reflecting the deep color of the night outside the window. He seemed a bit lonely.

The atmosphere seemed to be going a little bad as they continued to interact like this!

“Mister Lu, if you don’t have anything else, then I’ll go to sleep first?” Ning Xi carefully said.

It seemed as if Lu Tingxiao had seen through her. He raised his hand, “No hurries, sit.”

Not in a hurry?! She was in a very big hurry, ok!

HM Chapter 15

Chapter 15: You Want to Sleep with Me and Shirk the Responsibility?

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

Ning Xi sat down obediently like an elementary school student. Her face looking like she wanted to cry.

Lu Tingxiao held his head in one hand, “You’re scared of me?”

In the dark of the night, Lu Tingxiao seemed even more devilishly dangerous compared to his cold self in the day.

Ning Xi shook her head vigorously, then nodded carefully, “There’s probably not a single person who isn’t scared of you in the capital, right?”

Lu Tingxiao’s slender fingers played with the cup in his hands as he slowly said, “So you’re scared of me because others are afraid of me? Then why don’t you marry me since other women want to as well?”

This question frightened Ning Xi to the point that she almost slid off her chair.

She had just thought that she had escaped this trial in the day. Clearly she had really been too naive.

How was she supposed to answer such a loaded question?

Ning Xi trembled as she raised her hand, “Before answering this question, can I ask another one?”

Lu Tingxiao nodded, “You may.”

“Why me? Is it because Little Treasure is reliant on me? I think that it’s only temporary. He’ll be fine once his emotions have stabilised. Even if he is always like that, you don’t have to..... you don’t have to inconvenience yourself in this manner.....” Ning Xi painstakingly persuaded him as if advising a young girl that had strayed off the right path.

Lu Tingxiao put down the cup and raised his eyes to look at her, "I thought I made it clear the first time Ms Ning. I don't mind saying it again if you still don't understand. I am going to repay you with my body because you saved Little Treasure."

It's exactly because of this reason that I can't accept this okay!? Ning Xi roared in her heart.

Ning Xi felt that she wasn't able to communicate any further with him on this point. She could only make an apologetic expression, "Mr Lu, I'm extremely grateful for your good intentions. I'm absolutely against marriage though, so....."

Lu Tingxiao raised a brow, "So, you only want to sleep with me? Yet you don't want to take responsibility by marrying me?"

"Yes, that's exactly right! No no no no..... that wasn't what I meant!" Ning Xi was about to kneel for him. Could he be any more terrifying with his words?

"Unfortunately, I can't accept premarital sex."

"Who would believe that....." Ning Xi could not help mumbling under her breath after hearing that.

You've already gotten someone pregnant before marriage, okay?

Lu Tingxiao's expression was a little unfocused as looked out the window, "Little Treasure was an accident, I don't know who his mother is."

"....." Why did this sound so terrible?

"Then you're minding that I have a son?" Lu Tingxiao suddenly asked.

"That's impossible!" It's as Lu Tingxiao said, all the women in the capital were wracking their minds to be Little Treasure's stepmother. How could she mind that he had a son!

"Then why?"

Judging by the way things were going, Lu Tingxiao would not be letting her off unless she provided a satisfactory answer.

Ning Xi held her forehead helplessly. She said after taking a deep breath, "Mr

Lu, marriage is not a game. Regardless of whether it's for the sake of repaying a debt or other reasons, we just met. Do you understand my personality? Do you know my past?"

"The one I want to marry is the present you. Your past has nothing to do with me." Lu Tingxiao's answer was overbearing as expected.

Ning Xi's expression cooled down, "However, to me, my past is also a part of me. I have no way of cutting off my past to marry you. Mr Lu, we are travelling on different paths. I sincerely suggest that you take back your absurd idea."

Following that was a thick silence.

Ning Xi thought that the other would start throwing a huge temper due to the humiliation of being rejected again.

Lu Tingxiao spoke up with an even tone, "Understood."

Ning Xi's tightly wound nerves finally relaxed, "Then I'm going to sleep, good night."

"Good night."

The man looked at that frail back, his gaze was as unfathomable as the ocean depths. The only thing that didn't change was the heat that came from the seabed.

HM Chapter 16

Chapter 16: As Expected of His Son

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

Ning Xi was woken by the sound of a man's low voice from the living room the following morning.

Lu Tingxiao put down his phone after hearing the footsteps behind him. He asked with a warm tone, "Did I wake you?"

Ning Xi stared at the man before her, her eyes as wide as saucers.

Lu Tingxiao was not wearing a shirt. So the moment she had pushed the door open, her view had been filled with bare skin. The impact was too much.

She rubbed her nose, luckily she had not done anything embarrassing.

Lu Tingxiao seemed not to have noticed her abnormal expression. Instead he calmly picked up his shirt from the sofa to wear. He said while buttoning up his shirt: "There's an emergency at work, I have to leave now. Could I trouble you to wake Little Treasure up?"

"Oh, okay!" Ning Xi nodded as she hurried to call for Little Treasure.

In the end, she didn't have to call for him. She saw a soft, moe, and impossibly cute Pikachu the moment she turned around. It was staring straight at his dear father, Lu Tingxiao, without blinking. His expression was clearly unhappy.

"Little Treasure, go and change your clothes." Lu Tingxiao put on his coat and ordered his son.

The reaction he got was a 'Bang!' as the bedroom door was shut.

Completely ruthless.

Lu Tingxiao: "....."

Ning Xi: “.....”

Lu Tingxiao tried the door and found that the door was locked from the inside.

He looked towards Ning Xi, “Do you have the key?”

Ning Xi awkwardly shook her head, “I do, but it’s inside the room!”

Lu Tingxiao pinched his brow as he spoke in a cold tone, “Lu Qingyu, I’m giving you three minutes. Don’t think of ever coming back here if you don’t come out by then.”

Not a single peep sounded from inside after three minutes.

“Lu Qingyu, come out! If you’re going to wait for me to force you out, then I won’t be this easy to speak with!”

Still no movement.

A certain little bun was not leaving a shred of dignity for his father.

Ning Xi was watching from the side and holding back the urge to laugh, “I only have to go to work later, why not let Little Treasure stay here for a while longer?”

Lu Tingxiao’s face was black as he pulled out his cellphone to make a call.

Ning Xi secretly glanced at him and found that he was calling a psychiatrist. She was speechless for a moment. He was calling a psychiatrist for something as small as this? Wasn’t it making a mountain out of a molehill?

Ning Xi coughed lightly and suggested, “Why don’t you let me try?”

Lu Tingxiao hesitated for a moment, then nodded his head.

Ning Xi leaned on the door and tried to put on a soft tone, “Little Treasure, auntie has to go to work later on. I can’t take care of you, could you go home with daddy first?”

Still no response from inside.

“How about this, let’s exchange phone numbers so we can contact each other at any time. We can also video call!”

The sound of wavering footsteps sounded from inside.

“The director will scold me if auntie is late. Our director is really fierce, auntie is so pitiful wuuuuuu.....”

The door opened.

Lu Tingxiao had been prepared to wage a long war. Thus a trace of astonishment flashed across his eyes. He looked at the woman next to him with a complicated gaze.

She could actually persuade Little Treasure to come out obediently with just three sentences.

Little Treasure had locked himself up in the attic at home the last time this had happened. Their family of four, all the butlers and maids, the psychiatrist and even a negotiation expert had been deployed. They could only tear down the door in the end despite talking till their lips were dry for the entire afternoon. The end result was the little guy ignoring them for an entire month.

Ning Xi did not know of that incident. Of course, she only thought that this child was too obedient. She picked up the little bun. He was miserable yet had still come out because he could not bear the thought of her getting scolded. She praised, “Little Treasure is so obedient, thank you darling!”

The little bun who was praised had his mood raised. He silently handed her a piece of paper with a string of numbers on it.

Ning Xi received the note, “Eh? Is this your phone number? Great, I’ll save it. I’ll definitely call you once I’m free!”

Lu Tingxiao thought something was strange. Little Treasure did not have a phone, so where did he get that phone number?

He glanced over borrowing his height advantage-it was his phone number.

Not bad, as expected of his son!

.....

HM Chapter 17

Chapter 17: The Matchmaking Duo

Support the translator by reading *Hidden Marriage* on [volaretranslations](http://volaretranslations.com).

Starlight Entertainment.

Chang Li was fuming with rage in the office, “Ning Xi auditioned and got the role for supporting female lead!”

“Supporting female lead?” Ning Xueluo frowned, “Wasn’t she just playing an irrelevant role in some unknown movie? How could she have the time to go audition for the supporting female lead!”

“I thought it was strange too. I found out a few things about yesterday’s audition for the lead female role after asking around. The judges had been preparing to leave when they saw Ning Xi by accident. They thought she was perfect for the role and just decided it right then and there. No wonder you were so wary of her, this Ning Xi is indeed too scheming. The auditions already ended but she was still able to sway the judges. Who knows which one she was trying to hook!”

Chang Li did not dare to say any more. Ning Xi’s appearance was a killer weapon. It would not be a surprise to her at all if one of the judges had taken a fancy to her.

She had initially been planning to carefully raise Ning Xi when she had signed her. Who knew that there would suddenly be a Ning Xueluo coming out of nowhere.

On one side was a rookie without any connections. On the other side was a popular artiste with an important family background, the choice was clear. In a place like the entertainment circle, it wasn’t just looks that mattered.

Ning Xueluo’s expression was downcast, “Although it’s not the lead, this movie

is a huge production!"

Anyone listening to this would be able to tell that she did not want Ning Xi to get this role.

Chang Li was a little troubled, "I'm afraid there'll be some trouble this time. The company has invested a lot of funds in this movie. The boss behind our company will surely be happy that both the lead and supporting female actresses came from our company. It would be fine if there were someone more suitable who could replace Ning Xi. Too bad no one passed the audition the last time. Now we don't have a reason to switch Ning Xi out....."

Ning Xueluo seemed to have thought of something and suddenly calmed down. Touching her perfectly manicured nails, she laughed once, "Forget about it, since she's raring to play the fox spirit, then just let her do it! Heh, a seductress that caused the downfall of a nation, this role suits her quite well!"

.....

Ning Xi quickly received Chang Li's call informing her that her supporting lead role for《Land Under Heaven》had been decided, and that she should prepare.

The movie《Land Under Heaven》featured the female lead used all kinds of good traits to help the male lead ascend to the throne.

While the supporting female lead used all kinds of vile methods, making enemy of the society and being condemned. It ends with her finally being forced to jump a cliff by the female lead and brightening the hearts of people everywhere.

It was no wonder Ning Xueluo was so generous as to let her have it with this kind of setting.

There was still work she had to finish even though she had gotten the supporting lead for《Land Under Heaven》. Ning Xi had to go to another filming, the role was that of a mistress who had stolen someone's husband. There was only a five minute scene left to film today. She would be surrounded by a crowd of people to get beaten violently for five minutes.

In actuality, filming those five minutes took up two hours. The actors playing the crowd were inexperienced and their actions did not match their expressions. She had to be beaten repeatedly.

Upon returning home, Ning Xi casually switched on the TV and laid on the sofa exhausted.

She felt like she had forgotten something after lying down for a while.

The TV was showing the news at this moment and a familiar silhouette appeared on the screen.

That exceedingly beautiful face, those broad shoulders, narrow hips, long legs and a temperament that peaked a tall mountain. If it wasn't little bun's father Lu Tingxiao, then who could it be!

Lu Tingxiao seemed to be at a contract signing ceremony and was shaking hands with a few foreigners.

The host was speaking excitedly as he introduced how the Lu Corporation had successfully signed a collaboration with the Italian DR brand and was entering the European market. Their stock value could double.

Ning Xi finally remembered as she was watching, she forgot to call little bun!

.....

Platinum Palace.

The Lu parents had come back from overseas and the family of five were having a reunion over dinner.

The Lu Corporation was finally going to settle an important contract that they had been discussing for three years. Old Master Lu was extremely happy and he praised Lu Tingxiao highly, even giving Lu Jingli a round of praise.

However, the main point came up near the end.

His words approximately meant along the lines of: Work is important, but his precious grandson is even more important!

Old Master Lu: "Tingxiao, work is very important but you can't neglect Little Treasure. You've already finished the busy period of work, so spend more time to accompany Little Treasure!"

Old Madam Lu: "Find someone to help you take care of Little Treasure if you really have no time! Little Treasure has already grown so much, you should also

consider your personal problems!"

Old Master Lu: "Your mother is right!"

Lu Jingli subtly tossed his brother a look, our parents are starting to play this game again.

Lu Tingxiao focused on eating and not saying a single word.

Little Treasure was holding on to a phone without a single movement.

HM Chapter 18

Chapter 18: Hoping for a Daughter-in-Law

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

Looking at the stiff pair of father and son, Madam Lu was so worried her heart was breaking, “Tingxiao, do you even hear what I’m saying? Also, what’s wrong with Little Treasure? He hasn’t eaten a bite of food all night and he’s holding that phone like it’s a priceless treasure!”

Lu Jingli was chewing on some sweet-and-sour ribs, so his voice was unclear, “Little Treasure is waiting for the pretty lady’s call!”

Madam Lu was completely confused, “What pretty lady?”

Lu Jingli waved his hands, “Mum, dad, don’t worry so much. Brother already has someone he likes!”

Madam Lu was surprised but uncertain, “You’re telling the truth? Jingli, don’t trick us!”

At this time Master Lu also solemnly put down his chopsticks, eyeing Jingli suspiciously.

“Why would I try to trick you, this is absolutely true. If you don’t believe me, you can ask him!” Lu Jingli looked towards his brother as he said so.

“Tingxiao, is what Jingli said real?” Master Lu asked in a low voice.

“Tingxiao, say something!” Madam Lu prompted him.

Lu Tingxiao: “En.”

Madam Lu was extremely anxious. After waiting for half the day she had only heard the sound “En”. Immediately her gut was full of fire, “You horrible child, can’t you add even a single word? Why is talking to you always so difficult!”

Lu Tingxiao: “True.”

Lu Elders: “.....”

So he really only said one word.

Madam Lu still couldn't keep from worrying. She hesitantly asked, “Tingxiao, the person you like.....is it a girl or a boy?”

Lu Tingxiao's expression turned slightly dark, almost gritting his teeth as he said three words, “It's a girl.”

Lu Jingli laughed so hard he almost rolled off his chair, “Of course it's a girl. What's more, it's a very pretty young lady. Our Little Treasure also especially likes her, the phone call Little Treasure is waiting for is from her!”

Madam Lu almost cried from joy after hearing this, “Our ancestors have blessed and protected us, ancestors have blessed and protected us! Tingxiao, which family is she from? How old is she? Where does she come from? What does she do? What kind of people are in her family? Why didn't you notify us of anything.....”

Lu Jingli hurriedly stopped her, “Mom, calm down! A lot of things haven't been set in stone yet. We didn't tell you because we were afraid you would interfere and mess everything up!”

Things would probably go sour if they knew Ning Xi's identity. Ning Xi's reputation was bad, and she was also in the entertainment industry.

At this time, Master Lu also opened his mouth, “It's someone that Tingxiao approves. We won't have any problems, don't blindly worry.”

“What do you mean I'm worrying? Do you not worry? Who is it that's so distressed that they can't fall asleep in the middle of the night? Who ends up going on the porch to smoke?” Madam Lu mercilessly exposed her husband.

However, she felt much more at ease after hearing her husband's words, “Tingxiao's opinion of others is very strict, so the girl he picks definitely wouldn't be subpar. What's even more rare is that Little Treasure likes her too!”

As soon as he finished speaking, the phone Little Treasure had been carrying for the whole evening suddenly rang.

This phone was Lu Tingxiao's personal phone number, very few people knew it.

Lu Jingli went over to see, it really was Ning Xi's number.

"Is it that girl calling?" Madam Lu asked excited, as if she was immediately going to see her daughter-in-law.

Lu Jingli nodded his head repeatedly and helped Little Treasure receive the call. Little Treasure didn't really know how to use the cell phone. Lu Tingxiao had bought one for him before, but he didn't like to use it and threw it somewhere.

Immediately, the whole table focused on the phone in Little Treasure's hand.

Lu Jingli had the thickest skin and directly went next to the phone to eavesdrop.

HM Chapter 19

Chapter 19: The Shocked Parents

Support the translator by reading *Hidden Marriage* on [volaretranslations](http://volaretranslations.com).

Ning Xi struggled with herself for a long time as she was wondering whether to call. She dialed the number she had been given in the end.

She didn't really like children since the incident five years ago. In fact, she was somewhat avoiding getting close to them.

It brought up some bad memories for her and made her think of the child she had lost...

That child had carried her warmest hopes. It also represented her dirtiest past.

For some reason with Little Treasure, not only was the uncomfortable feeling gone, but she inexplicably took a liking to him. She couldn't resist getting closer to him.

It was strange.

"Hello.... Hello?" There was no sound although the call had been picked up.

Ning Xi knew that it must be Little Treasure and chuckled, "It's Little Treasure right? Sorry, auntie just finished her work and thought of calling you."

Little Treasure couldn't speak and had no way of replying her. So Ning Xi could only talk to herself and try to think of things to say.

"Darling, have you eaten yet? You're too skinny so you have to eat more okay?"

"Kids can't be picky with their food! You won't grow quickly if you're picky! Kids are also really cute when they're chubby! Although you're already plenty cute right now..."

"Oh yes, I saw your dad on TV just now! He just successfully signed a huge

business deal, he's really impressive. Help me congratulate him!"

.....

Ten minutes later, Little Treasure put down the phone and took out the whiteboard he had not used for some time.

He wrote in English stroke by stroke: Congratulations.

He was good at both Chinese and English even though Little Treasure didn't know how to speak. He stuck to writing English most of the time because he felt that Chinese writing was troublesome.

However, he had not written anything for a long time because he had no desire to communicate.

The two elders were frozen in shock.

Lu Jingli was still relatively calm since he had already seen this before.

Lu Tingxiao had secretly overheard Ning Xi's words. A trace of a smile showed on his ice mountain-like face after seeing that single word. He rubbed that little head, "Thank you."

After Little Treasure was done writing, he started eating without another word with a very serious aura.

He even ate the carrots he hated the most.

The two elders continued staring in shock.

The elders had just smiled. Their obedient grandson had voluntarily started writing and eating. He had even eaten carrots...

Madam Lu finally regained her senses. Unable to restrain herself, she asked: "Jingli, what did that girl say to Little Treasure in the call just now?"

Master Lu also had an expression of wanting to know.

Lu Jingli, who was in the center of attention from his parents, slowly said, "She didn't say much, she just told Little Treasure to eat more and not to be picky. She even asked Little Treasure to convey her congratulations to big brother."

Madam Lu had a disbelieving expression: "That was it?"

Lu Jingli shrugged: “What else could it be?”

Master Lu looked grateful, “That girl actually managed to achieve more in a single phone call than what Little Treasure’s psychiatrist did in a year.”

“That’s right!” Madam Lu was surprised and happy, “This girl doesn’t seem bad! Tingxiao, you have to work hard!”

Lu Tingxiao: “Un.”

Madam Lu looked at her eldest son with a disgusted look. She then turned towards her youngest, “Lao Er, your brother is like a piece of wood, how would he know how to chase a girl? You have to help him, okay?”

“Now you know how useful I am!” Lu Jingli harrumphed proudly, “Don’t worry, I’ll definitely use my lifetime’s teachings to help my brother! let’s set down rules first, you two aren’t allowed to interfere. You know that it’s too easy to ruin everything at this stage when parents come into the picture!”

The two elders agreed repeatedly, “We understand, we understand, we’re only asking!”

HM Chapter 20

Chapter 20: Her Exes Can Be Found Everywhere

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

After dinner, when their parents had just left, Lu Jingli wagged his tail and asked for a reward from his brother.

“Did I do good just now bro?! Did I?!”

He had wagged his tail for just a moment. His brother threw something small at him with a swoosh.

Lu Jingli caught it with a raised hand, “What’s this?”

His eyes bulged out after looking closely at it.

It was a key.

A key to the 100th anniversary limited edition Bugatti sports car he had been eyeing for a long time! Only a single one had ever been made!

“OH! My beloved darling!” Lu Jingli hugged the car keys and kissed it crazily, “Bro I love you!”

His brother had never relented no matter how much he had begged previously. Who knew that his brother would throw it to him by just casually saying a few words in front of their parents.

This Ning Xi occupied a greater place in his brother’s heart than he had imagined!

Lu Jingli was even more worried as he thought, “About this, bro are you sure it’s Ning Xi? You’re not just playing around but you really intend to marry her?”

“Marry.” Lu Tingxiao’s tone left no space for misunderstanding.

Lu Jingli sucked in a breath upon hearing so. He spoke sincerely in a grave tone

as someone who had been through many relationships:

“Then I have to tell you to prepare yourself. Chasing women is similar to playing games, and it can be categorised into different difficulty levels. Easy, normal, hard and hell mode. Chasing Ning Xi is definitely hell mode!”

“All women have weak points, but can you use money with Ning Xi? You can tell that she definitely won’t accept financial support or backdoor deals judging from how badly she’s doing in the entertainment circle despite her looks.”

“Using feelings? Look at how many boyfriends she had when she was overseas! Her exes can be found all over the entertainment circle. Their backgrounds are all exceptional. Even I wanted to bow down in admiration when I saw that list of names. I’ve never wanted to admit defeat to anyone before on this kind of matter!”

“As for using a baby? Don’t even think about using a baby to tie her down in a marriage. She’s wholly focused on her career and has no plans to have babies. Even if this master wooed her personally, I would have an 80% chance of a GAME OVER. A zero EQ relationship rookie like you is just going to turn into EXP for her!”

Lu Tingxiao glanced at him coldly, “100%.”

Lu Jingli’s mouth twitched, “Okay okay okay, I have a 100% chance of a GAME OVER. Don’t mind these small details, ok? Anyway I may have reached a conclusion. I dare to bet that Ning Xi is just like me, someone who has decided to never get married or have kids. This kind of person is really cynical towards relationships and feelings. Their freedom is akin to their life! It’s easy if you just want to play around. It’s going to be hellishly difficult if you want to marry her!”

“That’s because you’ve never met someone who makes you want to get married and have kids willingly.” Lu Tingxiao’s usually cold expression actually looked a little gentle under the moonlight shining through the windows.

Lu Jingli was counting the number of words his brother had said with disbelief written all over his face, “Arere? Those in love are indeed different, even a relationship noob is giving me lessons! Mah~ Though what you said does make some sense! So how about it? Do you want your dear brother’s help?”

Lu Tingxiao gave him two words, "No need."

Lu Jingli got anxious, "How can that be! Chasing women is different from business. Think carefully, are you really sure you don't need a smart, wise and handsome godly level woman chasing coach?"

Lu Jingli was trying his best to promote his services.

Then the study door was pushed open by someone with a creak.

The two of them turned their heads simultaneously to look.

They saw Little Treasure standing at the doorway in pajamas.

A trace of surprise flitted across Lu Tingxiao's eyes.

"Eh, Little Treasure..." Lu Jingli's face was also full of surprise.

Little Treasure would actually move out of his bedroom at this hour?

HM Chapter 21

Chapter 21: Little Treasure Makes a Ruckus at the Palace

Little Treasure loved his silence. He would normally hide in his room by himself when he was done eating. The household staff had to return their rooms immediately after completing their tasks. They couldn't make any sound or it would disturb Little Treasure; making him irritable or even lose control.

Madam Lu had previously sent some snacks to his room worried that he wasn't eating enough. But Little Treasure locked himself up in the attic...

Thus, no matter how much their parents loved Little Treasure, they didn't dare to move in with Tingxiao and Jingli.

Yet Little Treasure had actually taken the initiative to come out?

Not only that, but Little Treasure ran towards Lu Tingxiao and hugged his leg.

Lu Jingli laughed out loud, "Little Treasure, what are you doing? Hugging for some allowance?"

Lu Tingxiao lowered his head to look at his son and was able to tell what he wanted in a single glance. He rejected it without any hesitation, "No, you already went over last night."

Thus Little Treasure's gaze landed on his phone.

"You already called once during dinner." Lu Tingxiao rejected him again.

Lu Jingli finally understood after watching from the side. The little guy missed Ning Xi.

Seeing that he couldn't persuade his father, Little Treasure trotted over to Lu Jingli and reused the same move; he clung onto his uncle's legs.

Lu Jingli was overwhelmed by the honour, “No no no, precious, don’t use this move with me. You know that your uncle can’t stand up to your cuteness!”

Little Treasure usually looked dazed. The moment he wanted to plead for something, his little expression and presence could make you die of cuteness and then revive.

He tilted his small head and used that pair of big, beautiful, shining star-like eyes to look. One wouldn’t be able to resist plucking all the stars from the sky to give to him.

The only one in the family who could resist this move would be Lu Tingxiao.

Lu Jingli shrugged helplessly, “There’s no use in acting cute with me Little Treasure, I can’t win your dad!”

Little Treasure immediately let go of Lu Jingli.

Absolutely cold-hearted.

Lu Jingli held onto the wall and laughed non-stop seeing the little guy looking as if he had been beaten black and blue by his parents, “Ah, you actually don’t have to be this anxious Little Treasure. There’s an old phrase, if the love between couples is true, then absence will only make the heart grow fonder! Wait until your dad marries Xiao Xi auntie. Then you’ll be able to see her everyday!”

His persuasion failed.

The little guy trotted to the door, slammed it open and ran out.

Lu Jingli shrugged, “What should we do?”

“He ate a lot tonight.” Lu Tingxiao said.

The meaning in his words was that Little Treasure could currently not use the absolute tactic, a hunger strike.

Lu Jingli calmed down after hearing his brother say so.

However, they had really underestimated Little Treasure...

He was a child, he didn’t need any tactics or plans. He only needed to make a ruckus.

A huge bang sounded from the living room as they had just finished speaking.

Lu Jingli exchanged gazes with his brother and the two hurried downstairs.

The living room downstairs had already been trashed within such a short amount of time. An ancient flower vase in the corner that was as tall as a person had already been pushed to the floor and shattered. Everything that could be pushed over or broken had already met a similar fate...

“Lu Qingyu!”

Lu Tingxiao would only call Little Treasure’s full name when he was truly angry.

Even Lu Jingli couldn’t stand that frightful presence once it was released, let alone Little Treasure.

Little Treasure started shaking scared by his father’s dreadful expression. His emotions got even more out of control. He screamed at the top of his lungs as he ran everywhere breaking everything he could get his hands on.

Lu Jingli hastily followed closely behind, yet he didn’t dare to follow too closely. The consequences would be terrible if they accidentally fell, since there were so many shards on the ground.

HM Chapter 22

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 22: Calling In Emergency Support

“Brother, we can’t go on like this. Just ask Ning Xi to come over?”

“No need.” Lu Tingxiao rejected the idea coldly.

Lu Jingli earnestly tried to sway him, “Brother, Little Treasure is just a child, not one of your subordinates. You’re being too harsh on him, what’s the problem with spoiling him a little? All children have times where they’re stubborn or cause trouble.”

“It’s not your place to interfere with how I educate my child.” Lu Tingxiao’s face was frosty. It seemed that he was determined not to let Little Treasure get used to the bad habit of throwing a tantrum to get what he wanted.

Lu Jingli was feeling awkward being trapped between this pair of father and son. This was such a headache!

If things worsened to the point that their parents would hear about it, the matter of him taking Little Treasure to a bar would be completely exposed once they started investigating.

Gods, please send someone to save him!

When Lu Tingxiao went to capture Little Treasure, Lu Jingli hurriedly found his phone and secretly called Ning Xi.....

.....

At night, Ning Xi was at home reading a script while half-heartedly chatting with someone online.

Corrupted Devil King: Little Ning Xi, can’t you change your outdated QQ name? It hurts the eyes!

My Lonely Empty Loss: So Corrupted Devil King doesn't hurt the eyes? You don't feel embarrassed scolding me?

Corrupted Devil King: Cough, I'm coming back to China next month, come pick me up at the airport!

My Lonely Empty Loss: Not going, not free.

Corrupted Devil King: Pick me up!

My Lonely Empty Loss: I already said I'm not free!

Corrupted Devil King: Are you coming or not?

My Lonely Empty Loss: The person you're contacting doesn't want to talk and throws a dog over
Corrupted Devil King: The person you're contacting screws your dog

My Lonely Empty Loss: The dog feels that it's been violated by a needle

Corrupted Devil King: ****! How are you even more nasty than I am! Also, who are you saying has a needle!

My Lonely Empty Loss: You're the one who started acting dirty, I'm not wasting any more time with you. I still have to read my script.

Corrupted Devil King: It's just a small supporting female lead role, what's there to look at! We used to have feelings for each other, are you really going to be so heartless?

My Lonely Empty Loss: There are tons of people who used to be together with me, what number are you?

Corrupted Devil King: Little Ning Xi! You just wait for laozi!!!

Ning Xi closed her laptop and wholeheartedly started studying her script.

After reading for a while, her cell phone suddenly sounded. It was a unfamiliar number.

She was worried that it was the drama crew calling, so she picked up the call immediately.

"Hello, Ning Xi, save me!!"

"You are....."

“I’m Lu Jingli, come quickly to the Platinum Palace, something’s happened to Little Treasure!”

“What? What happened to Little Treasure?” Ning Xi’s heart immediately tightened.

“It’s extremely urgent, come over quickly, hurry... B-b-brother, calm down... He’s still young... Little Treasure, Little Treasure, you can’t smash that... Ah.....”

Lu Jingli made it sound so serious, and with the sounds of things falling and smashing coming from the phone, Ning Xi became even more tense. She hurriedly changed as she said, “I’m coming over immediately!”

Even she didn’t know what had happened to her. As soon as she heard something had happened to Little Treasure, she couldn’t sit still anymore.

She had only known him for several days, yet he was already in her heart and she couldn’t let him go.

This place was pretty far from Platinum Palace and taking a taxi would take at least forty minutes. Ning Xi was worried that something would happen if she took too long so she pushed her motorcycle out and blazed off towards Platinum Palace.

Ning Xi only took ten minutes to make the forty minute trip.

Lu Jingli had most likely notified the security guards, as they let her in as soon as she gave her name. There was already a maid waiting to bring her in when she arrived outside Villa No. 8.

HM Chapter 23

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 23: Picking a Fight with the Boss in Rage

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on [volaretranslations](http://volaretranslations.com).

Ning Xi wore black skintight leather pants to make it easier to ride the bike. She took off her helmet and gloves after she rushed over hurriedly. Her long hair fell onto her shoulders like a waterfall and her whole person looked unrestrained and handsome. She was unbelievably beautiful.

Lu Jingli almost couldn't hold back his whistle watching her entrance.

"Lu Qingyu, do you really think I don't dare to touch you?" Lu Tingxiao trapped his son in a corner of the living room. He caught him in one movement. The little guy was struggling fiercely in his hands like an extremely angry little beast, frantically waving his soft little arms.

"Don't!" Ning Xi rushed over upon seeing the situation and snatched away Little Treasure.

Little Treasure's expression went dazed for a second as he tilted his head up and looked at the newcomer. Then his big eyes reddened as he buried his head in Ning Xi's embrace, refusing to let go no matter what.

Ning Xi's heart ached fiercely as she saw the little bun that had been so cute, soft and lovely yesterday with fear in his eyes and his body trembling.

She could no longer care that her opponent was the fearsome Big Boss once her temper had been raised. She fired off words like a machine gun, "Mr Lu, I know that I don't have the right to say anything as an outsider. I really want to say something though, there's a huge problem with the way you're raising him. Children need warmth when they're this small. Furthermore, Little Treasure's situation is a little special. He's been through a huge fright and he doesn't have a

mother by his side. How can you be this fierce towards him? You should be more patient and forgiving with him. Didn't you see how scared he was? You were even going to raise a hand against him!"

Lu Tingxiao: "It was my fault."

Lu Jingli: "..." Ha ha.

Lu Jingli's expression was full of joy upon hearing his own brother admitting his fault this readily.

You showed me a black face when I told you there was something wrong with your education method. Yet you accepted it so obediently when Ning Xi said it!

Little Treasure was like a little puppy that had found its owner ever since Ning Xi had come. He let Ning Xi lead him back to his room obediently. A totally different person from the little lion cub that had been going crazy earlier.

Ning Xi patted Little Treasure's head reassuringly, "What happened today? Wasn't he doing just fine this morning?"

Lu Jingli sighed: "What else could it be? Little Treasure missed you and wanted to meet with you or call you. Afraid that he'd be disturbing you, my brother wouldn't let him do either of those things. So that resulted in Little Treasure causing a ruckus; running all over and breaking everything in the living room. My brother doesn't want to condone such bad habits, so the two were at a stalemate when you came in..."

"This was all because he wasn't allowed to meet me or call me?" Ning Xi found it a little hard to believe. Lu Tingxiao had told her that Little Treasure was quite reliant on her right now. But she didn't think she had this much impact on him?

"What else did you think? You're seriously underestimating your influence!" Lu Jingli brought up one example after another seeing that she still didn't understand, "Remember that day in the storeroom? Little Treasure refused to let anyone touch you when you fainted. It was my brother who personally carried you to the hospital in the end!"

Ning Xi subconsciously glanced at Lu Tingxiao. Uh, Lu Tingxiao had personally carried her to the hospital...?

"Little Treasure thought you had died when he woke up in the hospital and saw that you weren't there. He immediately went on a rampage and nearly jumped out the window. He had only calmed down when my brother gave him the note that you had left. Little Treasure used a hunger strike to force my brother to bring him to meet you last night. As for tonight, he ate too much because of your call. He couldn't use his all-powerful hunger strike, so he came up with this..."

Uh, ate too much? She did tell Little Treasure to eat more in the call tonight. So was this her fault now?

HM Chapter 24

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 24: Huluwa Huluwa

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Lu Jingli had crammed too much information into his speech just now. It took Ning Xi a long time to digest it all.

She looked at the little bun sticking closely to her side, “Little Treasure, did you break all those things just because you wanted to see me?”

Little Treasure nodded.

Ning Xi frowned, “Did you know it’s wrong to do that?”

Little Treasure shook his head.

Ning Xi finally realised why Lu Tingxiao was so strict. This child was most likely overly spoiled at home and thought that it was a matter of course that everything should follow his will.

Ning Xi’s gaze turned stern, “Then auntie is going to tell you. What you did was wrong, that’s what bad children do. You can’t do that anymore, understand?”

Little Treasure nodded.

It was hard to describe the expression on Lu Tingxiao’s face.

Although Little Treasure was unruly, he would keep to his word as long as he had agreed to something.

The psychiatrist had tried all sorts of methods to cure Little Treasure’s bad habits. Habits such as hunger strikes, locking himself up and even destruction to get his way. However, Little Treasure had never given in.

The two elders were too soft-hearted to try more forceful methods. They had only persisted halfway before giving up and following his will every time Little

Treasure had thrown a tantrum.

Ning Xi's impact on Little Treasure was greater than he had imagined. Of course, he was happy regarding this point.

Ning Xi then tried to coax him to sleep after she had finished setting down rules for him. In a soft tone, "Uh, how about a new song for today?"

Little Treasure obediently nodded his head.

She coughed several times, "let me think of what to sing...Right! Huluwa huluwa, seven flowers grow on a branch, not afraid even in a storm, la la la la la..."

Lu Jingli had been leaning against the door and almost fell, "How could Little Treasure like such childish songs with his level of intelligence!"

He then found out that the little guy was listening blissfully. Even funnier was that his dear brother was also listening blissfully...

Ning Xi stretched after finally coaxing Little Treasure to sleep, "I'm almost done singing all the children's songs I've learned in my lifetime..."

Lu Jingli was dumbfounded, "Why do you have to sing children's songs? It's fine if you sing something else! All these children's songs are killing me!"

Ning Xi used the rubber band on her wrist to tie up her hair casually. Her bright phoenix eyes raised slightly, "Other songs? Other than children's songs, all the songs I know aren't appropriate for children!"

The memory of her singing under the moonlight appeared in Lu Tingxiao's mind after she had finished speaking...

Lu Jingli was excited upon hearing that, "Hahaha, really, really? Which songs? Sing a few for me!"

Lu Tingxiao casually tossed a glance over.

Lu Jingli immediately stood up straight out of fright. His brother was too petty!

"You were nearby just now?" Lu Tingxiao asked.

Otherwise how could she have reached this quickly?

"No, I was in my apartment. I sped over here on the motorbike! Fast, right?"

Ning Xi was proud.

No wonder she was dressed like this.

Her outfit was even more stunning than yesterday. She had seemed like a conservative little fairy yesterday, but now she was like a wild and free demoness.

“It’s very dangerous.” Lu Tingxiao’s face was full of disapproval. He turned his cold gaze towards Lu Jingli, who had been the one to call Ning Xi of his own accord.

“It’s nothing, I’m good at riding!” Ning Xi waved her hands nonchalantly. She then yawned, “I’ll make a move first since Little Treasure is fine now!”

Lu Tingxiao suddenly spoke up as she was preparing to leave, “Miss Ning, I have a presumptuous request.”

Since she had already expended her rage, Ning Xi immediately returned to her normal self. She respectfully said, “Mr Lu, please feel free to make your request. I’ll try to comply as long as it’s within my abilities.”

The Lu family also held an authoritative power in the underground. Demon King Lu was someone who would strike with just one disagreeable word.

Lu Tingxiao looked at his son lying in his room with a solemn expression, “Little Treasure has been affected a lot more than I had imagined. He was accidentally locked in the storeroom at the bar last time. I hope that Miss Ning can move in with us to stay for a period of time since it’s only you that can calm him down now. Only until Little Treasure’s emotional state has recovered.”

Ning Xi was stunned after hearing Lu Tingxiao’s words, “Hah...? Move in here... to stay?”

TL Note: The chapter title is from [the theme song](#) from a Chinese children’s cartoon, *Calabash Brothers*. Huluwa = calabash baby. XD

HM Chapter 25

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 25: Living Together Just Like That?

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.com.

“Yes.”

Ning Xi scratched her head, feeling awkward, “This... isn’t this a little inappropriate? I can come over at any time if Little Treasure wants to see me!”

Lu Tingxiao massaged his brow tiredly, “There are too many unknown factors, especially at night. It would be too dangerous if we had an emergency situation, and you sped over here on your bike again. With my identity, it’s not convenient to keep bringing Little Treasure over to visit either. I know this request puts you on the spot. As Little Treasure’s father, I would still like to make this request of you. I hope you can agree.”

Ning Xi started to feel a headache coming on.

She would definitely have turned and left if Lu Tingxiao had used his power to force her into it. However, he was not using his identity in the slightest, he was instead sincerely pleading her. It was hard for her to reject it when facing such an exceedingly handsome face!

Lu Jingli was watching his dear brother with eyes of admiration.

Too amazing!

He didn’t think that his brother would use such a high end technique. Turning a disadvantage into an advantage, he opened up a road on the path to capturing Ning Xi’s heart.

Little Treasure’s existence turned into his greatest support instead of becoming an obstacle.

It was at this moment that Little Treasure jumped out of bed with a frightened expression, knocking over the bedside lamp with a bang.

The fear in the little guy's eyes only faded after he saw Ning Xi. He shot over to her leg like an arrow.

The extreme fear in those eyes would make anyone's heart ache for him.

Ning Xi hurriedly crouched down, "Darling, why did you wake up?"

The little guy buried his head into her embrace, his soft and tiny arms wrapped around her neck in a death grip.

"Shhhh, auntie's here. Don't be afraid..." Ning Xi patted his back lightly. The distinct sweet scent unique to children wafted up from his body. This threw Ning Xi's emotions into turmoil.

She was obviously used to avoiding little kids, but why was she unable to hate Little Treasure...?

Ning Xi could only coax Little Treasure back to sleep again. She then stepped lightly out of the room, closing the door.

She saw that the servants had already cleaned up the mess downstairs, leaving a pristine living room.

As expected of the Lu family's servants. Not only were they fast and efficient, they were very well-trained. All of them were very curious about Ning Xi's arrival. Though not a single one dared to take a second look at her, much less gossip. They left quietly the moment they finished their tasks.

Seeing that she had come out of the room, Lu Tingxiao watched her silently, not saying a word or adding any pressure on her.

Ning Xi looked hesitant, but her heart turned soft when thinking of the way Little Treasure had clung onto the corner of her clothes without letting go. She took a deep breath before saying, "Okay, Mr Lu. I accept your request. Just take it as payment for how Little Treasure saved me the last time."

Lu Tingxiao relaxed, "Thank you."

"Little Treasure might wake up at any moment. I think I won't be able to leave tonight, but all my things are still in my apartment..." Ning Xi was troubled.

“No problem, I’ll send someone to collect them for you.” Lu Tingxiao sent orders to the steward and made arrangements even as he was talking.

Lu Jingli, who had not been able to interject at all from start to finish, looked at the proceedings in a dazed state.

They... they were living together just like that?!

“Anything else?” Lu Tingxiao glanced towards Lu Jingli.

“I’m leaving now!” The third wheel who was being disdained by his dear brother immediately left.

He had thought that Ning Xi was a fearsome opponent, but his brother wasn’t a weakling either.

He now knew that his brother didn’t lack any skill in chasing women. It was just that he hadn’t removed his seal in the past 32 years...

Lu Tingxiao escorted Ning Xi to a room right next to Little Treasure’s bedroom, “You’ll stay here from now onwards. I’ll get someone to redecorate it in the style you like later on.”

Ning Xi hurriedly waved away the offer, “No need, no need. I’m only staying for a few days, redecorating would be too troublesome!”

“It’s no trouble at all.”

Lu Tingxiao received a large ring of keys from the steward, then passed it to her, “These are the house keys. You can enter any place you like. The main door is locked by a password, which is 591414. This key is for the attic, you must keep it carefully. Little Treasure likes to take the key and hide in the attic sometimes. This key is...”

Seeing that Lu Tingxiao had handed over every key except the one to his safe, Ning Xi hurriedly interrupted, “Wait wait wait... Mr Lu, aren’t you being too relaxed with me!? You’re not afraid that I’ll steal everything in your house?”

“What do you want? I’ll get someone to help you move it.” Lu Tingxiao said in all seriousness. It seemed like he wasn’t joking around.

HM Chapter 26

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 26: Ning Xi, We Have Long Days Ahead of Us

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on [volaretranslations](http://volaretranslations.com).

Ning Xi coughed a few times. She had been completely defeated by Lu Tingxiao. She hurriedly tried to explain, “I was only joking... it was just a joke...”

Lu Tingxiao seemed to have gotten hooked on giving away keys. He casually tossed her another, “It’s not easy to call a cab from here. It’s inconvenient for you to travel to work. Take this car to use.”

Ning Xi: “...”

Why...

Why was it that she had a feeling of being kept even though she was only staying for a short period of time?

Uh, no, if she were being kept, then she should be kept hidden outside. What kind of sugar daddy would entrust all the keys of the main residence, and their son to her...

Um, this was clearly the feeling of being a newlywed couple...

She suddenly thought of how Lu Tingxiao had abruptly proposed to her the first time they had met...

She was confident enough to claim that she understood men, but the man in front of her was like a computer system with the highest grade firewall. She could not see through him at all.

She didn’t know if agreeing to stay due to one moment of weakness was going to be fortune or disaster...

Little Treasure was in a bad state tonight. Ning Xi accompanied Little Treasure

to sleep on his small bed just in case.

In the late night.

The room door was pushed open silently.

A man walked in with light footsteps and sat down at the foot of the bed.

Under the warm glow of the bedside lamp, a woman was sleeping. She had stopped in the middle of patting Little Treasure, her breathing shallow, expression warm. Her soft lips were like cherry blossoms blooming in summer, slightly open like an unspoken invitation...

After a moment, a dark shadow abruptly fell over the warm patch of light as the man's silhouette drew closer and closer to those pink...

He was close enough to feel her breathing. As he could reach out to take his prize with just the slightest movement, he suddenly forced himself to stop. A cool kiss landed on the woman's forehead.

Ning Xi, we have long days ahead of us.

.....

The next morning.

Ning Xi had thought that she wouldn't sleep well on a strange bed, but she had an unexpectedly good night. She had continued sleeping until she woke up naturally, without even a dream to break the peace.

She found that Little Treasure was already awake when she woke up.

The little guy was currently sitting next to her, earnestly reading a book without making a sound.

He was clearly this well-behaved, yet you really couldn't imagine how the little bun was when he exploded...

"Good morning darling~" Ning Xi sat up with the blanket and greeted him warmly.

Little Treasure immediately raised his head in surprise. Although he didn't say anything and his expression didn't change, Ning Xi could tell that he was in a good mood from his expressive eyes.

Finding it funny, Ning Xi flicked away a stray hair from little bun's forehead, "Auntie doesn't have work today. I can accompany you at home for the whole day!"

Hearing so, the little guy clearly became even happier. He even slightly raised the corner of his mouth.

Ning Xi's heart almost bled out of cuteness. She couldn't resist grabbing his little cheeks and rubbing, "Darling, smile more, you're too cute when you smile!"

After washing up, they headed downstairs to find breakfast already prepared.

Ning Xi didn't see Lu Tingxiao. The steward and servants did not mention needing to wait for him to eat, so Ning Xi deduced that he had already headed to work.

After breakfast, Ning Xi had been a little worried on how to take care of a child. What would she do if she didn't take care of him properly...

However, all her worries came to nothing.

In the morning, she read a script while camped on the sofa. Little Treasure was sprawled out on the table at the side, either reading or drawing. The two of them did not bother each other and got along harmoniously.

The servants only appeared once to deliver snacks and fruits with extremely light movements, as if afraid of disturbing him.

It seemed that Little Treasure normally preferred silence.

HM Chapter 27

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 27: Fauvism

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In the corner, the old steward was currently watching the pair of adult and child in the living room.

He found that Ning Xi had not tried to get closer to the little young master at all, but had focused on reading her scripts the whole morning.

The little young master had passed his time like usual, reading books or drawing. It looked like there was nothing out of the ordinary, but upon closer observation, you could see that he would sneak a peek at Ning Xi from time to time. The expression on his face was both lively and at peace.

The old steward had felt rather anxious from his first look at Ning Xi, afraid that the eldest young master was being tricked by her, perhaps due to her exceptionally beautiful looks.

From his observations thus far, she seemed somewhat safe, but she might just be waiting for the right moment to strike...

There were so many women eyeing the position of Mrs Lu and trying to think of all sorts of ways to become Little Treasure's stepmother.

There had even been a terrible event two years ago, almost causing little young master to...

He had been on tenterhooks since seeing how the eldest young master trusted her and how the second young master was not stopping him. Even little young master seemed to like that woman a lot, so he couldn't help but to keep his guard up.

Two hours had already passed unknowingly.

When Ning Xi was almost done with reading the script, Little Treasure had already finished his drawing and had trotted over to show it to her.

Ning Xi lifted her head to look, and her face was filled with surprise, "This... This drawing is of me?"

She really couldn't tell from Little Treasure's quiet appearance that his drawing style would actually be Fauvism.

Fauvism was characterised by the use of vibrant and heavy colours, straightforward and coarse brush strokes, to create an intense picture to express your innermost thoughts...

Although the person drawn in this picture looked somewhat strange, the drawing had accurately captured the characteristics of the person, so Ning Xi could recognise at one glance that the subject was herself.

Little Treasure nodded while hugging the picture, he looked a little nervous, worried that she wouldn't like it.

"This is... simply amazing! Can I take a picture of this for my phone wallpaper?" Ning Xi wasn't purposely trying to compliment Little Treasure, she actually liked Fauvism herself. She especially liked the strong contrast in colours. Looking at Little Treasure's drawing with a basic understanding of art appreciation, his standard was already at the level of a great master!

Little Treasure pressed his lips together shyly and shoved the drawing into her hands.

Ning Xi pointed at herself, "For me?"

Little Treasure nodded.

"Thank you! I love it so much!" Ning Xi hugged the little bun and placed a kiss on his soft cheeks.

The little bun was stunned for a moment before his face was covered in a fierce blush. His usually dazed eyes looked even more lively.

The pair of adult and child were warmly interacting when Ning Xi heard footsteps from overhead.

She raised her head to look towards the direction of the sound and saw Lu

Tingxiao with casual home clothes and messy bed hair walking down lazily from the stairs...

Although Lu Tingxiao usually looked mesmerising, the gap between his current slovenly appearance and his normal appearance was too huge, resulting in a killer charm-he was so sexy there was no cure for it.

Ning Xi was dazed for quite a while before she could react, “Mr Lu, you’re not working today?” Wasn’t it Monday today?

“En, I’m resting today.” Lu Tingxiao nodded.

Ning Xi thought for a moment before realisation hit. He had just spent a lot of time and effort to sign a huge deal, so having a good rest was normal.

So Big Boss Lu was also the kind to sleep in.... She inexplicably felt closer to him...

HM Chapter 28

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 28: Domineering CEO

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

“It’s the first time Little Treasure has drawn a human portrait.” Lu Tingxiao commented after glimpsing the portrait in Ning Xi’s hands.

“Really? Then it’s quite the honour!” Ning Xi was very happy.

“What do you want to eat in the afternoon?” Lu Tingxiao asked.

He was seemingly prepared to feed her in addition to staying here...

Ning Xi was about to speak up when her phone suddenly rang.

It was from Chang Li.

Did she arrange another bit role for her?

“Hello, Chang-jie.”

“Ning Xi, 《Land Under Heaven》is holding an opening ceremony at the Grand Pearl Hotel at 12pm, don’t be late.”

“What? 12pm? 12pm today?”

“Yes, today.”

“Chang-jie, why didn’t you inform me earlier? It’s already almost 11am!”

“What do you mean I didn’t inform you earlier, aren’t I telling you an hour in advance?”

“An hour, that isn’t even enough for me to travel there, furthermore I have to dress and do my makeup...”

“Those are your problems, don’t annoy me, I’m very busy now, I’m hanging up.”

Having finished her words, she hung up immediately.

“Chang! **** you!” Ning Xi threw her phone.

After saying so, Ning Xi froze.

Little Treasure was stunned.

Lu Tingxiao was also stunned.

Ning Xi wiped her face, hating that she couldn’t dig a hole to bury herself in.

She had gotten too agitated and had forgotten that she was still in the Lu residence, and that she even had a little kid next to her...

She had not intended to act like a demure lady in front of Lu Tingxiao anyway, but it would be bad if she was a bad influence on Little Treasure.

She coughed twice, “Er, Little Treasure, just take it that you never heard that just now! You absolutely cannot learn from auntie’s example and scold people, because what auntie was scolding just now was not a person!” Ning Xi explained solemnly.

Little Treasure blinked and nodded like he did not fully understand.

A trace of humour flashed across Lu Tingxiao’s eyes as he asked, “What happened?”

Ning Xi gritted her teeth, “The opening ceremony for《Land Under Heaven》 starts today at 12pm. It’s almost 11am but my manager only called to inform me just now. It takes at least 50 minutes to reach Grand Pearl Hotel from here, don’t tell me I need to appear on camera bare-faced?”

“Why not? Your bare face is enough.”

Ning Xi was stunned for a moment, she had not expected that Lu Tingxiao would actually be this smooth. She scratched her head, coughing once in embarrassment, “Thanks for the compliment, Mr Lu... but it’s considered rude if I don’t put on basic makeup at the very least at these kinds of events. Most importantly, I don’t have any appropriate clothes at the moment and there’ll be so many media outlets there. Ahhhhh! This is so frustrating...”

“Wait for a moment.” Lu Tingxiao raised his hand and indicated for her to stay

calm, then took his phone to the courtyard to make a call.

Ten minutes later, someone arrived, panting out of breath.

“CEO Lu, I’ve brought all the stuff you wanted, are we starting right now?” The newcomer was wearing jeans with holes and a grey cotton jacket, and had a striking dark blue earring on his left ear.

Ning Xi was surprised to find that he was actually a familiar face.

Of course, familiar face meaning that Ning Xi recognised him, but he did not recognise Ning Xi at all.

He was a makeup artist known as The Godly Hand under Golden Age Entertainment and the personal makeup artist of the famous actress, Su Yimo, Arthur.

He was someone famous that a small fry like her could only gaze at from afar!

“This is?” Ning Xi’s face was full of suspicion.

“You don’t recognise him?” Lu Tingxiao asked.

“Of course I recognise the famous Arthur! But what did you call him over for...”

“To style you, naturally.” Lu Tingxiao said as if it was a matter of course.

Ning Xi’s head was full of black lines momentarily, she moved closer to Lu Tingxiao’s ear and said softly, “You... you’re actually making someone from Golden Age Entertainment style me? Are you sure?! Don’t you know that I’m under Starlight Entertainment? Golden Age and Starlight are dead rivals, okay!”

“So what?” Lu Tingxiao replied like the domineering CEO he was.

HM Chapter 29

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 29: Soon-to-be Lady Boss

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on [volaretranslations](http://volaretranslations.com).

So what?!

Ning Xi choked, feeling speechless, “Big Boss Lu, do your employees know that you’re using your company’s people to help artistes from other companies?”

They evidently did not; this famous makeup artist had definitely never heard of her considering how unknown she was.

She really wanted to kneel to Lu Tingxiao.

Golden Age Entertainment was one of the subsidiaries of the Lu Corporation at the very least!

Although Lu Jingli was managing Golden Age now, the boss behind the scenes was the Lu Corporation’s Lu Tingxiao.

The Lu Corporation began to get involved with the entertainment industry five years ago and bought over Golden Age Entertainment, creating an entertainment empire. They were even able to compete directly with the oldest, leading company in the industry, Starlight Entertainment.

From this, you could see how fierce the competition was between the two companies, their employees—from artistes to managers to assistants, makeup artists and stylists—could never mix. If there were artistes from both companies present on the same set, there would definitely be some sparks flying.

Lu Tingxiao looked at his watch, “The minivan is at the door, you can do your makeup and styling on the way there and you’ll make it in time. It’s up to you whether you want to go or not.”

Ning Xi was so conflicted that her intestines started to hurt, but she still gritted her teeth, “I’m going!”

Since Lu Tingxiao wasn’t bothered about it, then she wouldn’t care about it either!

Seeing that Lu Tingxiao had followed along, she was surprised, “You’re going too?”

“Who else is going to drive? Little Treasure wants to stay a little longer with you as well.” He was using that matter-of-fact tone again, as if whatever he said was truth and she was only asking silly questions.

Little Treasure nodded vigorously.

“Okay...”

In the end, all four of them got on the minivan, together with the stylist Arthur.

Lu Tingxiao didn’t even change out of his clothes, he continued driving in his casual homewear while Ning Xi and Arthur sat in the back, with Little Treasure watching them curiously as he sprawled over his seat.

Arthur carefully looked over Ning Xi once, his gaze showing great appreciation, “This lady has perfect features and amazing skin, I don’t need to do much. I’ll just put on some light makeup. What occasion are you going to today, miss? I need to choose the right clothes for you.”

“Uh, it’s just an opening ceremony for a movie...”

Ning Xi was deathly afraid that she would get beaten up if he found out that she was from Starlight. Luckily, Arthur didn’t ask much, he only nodded to show that he understood and continued to do her makeup.

When they were close to the location of the opening ceremony, Ning Xi had been fully made up from top to toe, they had grasped the timing very well.

Lu Tingxiao stopped the car, then turned to look at the woman behind, with his arm on the back of his seat.

“How is it?” Ning Xi asked, a little nervous.

“Not bad.”

It wasn’t easy to get such a compliment from someone as taciturn as Lu Tingxiao. Furthermore, Little Treasure was tilting his head and looking at her with an awestruck expression.

Ning Xi was suddenly brimming with confidence and she hugged Little Treasure apologetically, “Darling, I’m so sorry I couldn’t keep my word, but auntie promises you that I’ll quickly return to accompany you after work!”

Little Treasure hugged her for a moment before reluctantly letting go and waving goodbye, knowing that she was rushing for time.

Looking at the pair of father and son behind her, Ning Xi’s heart was filled with warmth...

After battling like a lone soldier for so long, it was the first time she had had such a warm feeling.

Since Ning Xi had left, the driver’s position was naturally left to Arthur.

Arthur could no longer hold back his nosiness and carefully asked as he drove, “Boss, who was that lady just now? Is she one of the new recruits of our company? How come I haven’t seen her before?”

Damn! Their big boss actually had a woman at his side, this was mind blowing news!

Lu Tingxiao supported his chin, answering leisurely: “An artiste from Starlight.”

Arthur: “...”

In an instant, Arthur looked as sour as if he had eaten a lemon.

Big boss! You actually let me style an artiste from Starlight!

Why is our boss working for the other side!

Even our second young master doesn’t date anyone from Starlight, okay?

If the person sitting here had been the second young master, he would have let loose a string of ranting.

However, this was the great evil king Lu Tingxiao...

He could only hold it in, not even daring to let out a single peep of complaint even if it killed him.

Something else that he couldn't say out was, that unknown Starlight artiste wasn't going to become their soon-to-be lady boss, right?

After all, this woman was even able to win over the little prince.

She definitely wasn't simple...

HM Chapter 30

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 30: Opening Ceremony

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At the opening ceremony of 《Land Under Heaven》.

The cast and crew members were all assembled, lights were flashing one after another, and there were numerous media outlets there. There was even a huge group of fans in the outer ring who had come after hearing the news.

Most of the media outlets were surrounding the female lead, Ning Xueluo, and the male lead, Zhao Sizhou.

One of them was the shining star of Starlight Entertainment while the other was the famous star who had won an Oscar. The pairing of a suave man with a beauty naturally drew the attention of everyone.

“Xueluo, we all know that this is your second time acting as a couple with Sizhou on screen, would you also give your heart to a man like Sizhou in real life?”

“Haha, Sizhou is indeed attractive, but that won’t happen! I don’t have any space left in my heart for him!”

The media was clamouring after hearing so.

Ning Xueluo had publicly announced that she had a boyfriend a year ago. Various people had gone digging for insider news and found out that her boyfriend was actually the son of the Yifeng Corporation’s CEO, Su Hongguang. He had both status and money, and even had good looks to boot-everyone had been filled with envy.

Although the fans had been upset, fans were not as averse to marriage these days as compared to the past. Most fans even hoped that their idol would find

someone good to marry.

Ning Xueluo's popularity had not declined in the slightest after revealing that she had a lover. Conversely, she had maintained her popularity with topics like 'Handsome and rich boyfriend' and 'Winner at life'.

Zhao Sizhou, who was at her side, was good at following up. He immediately held his chest as if his heart hurt, "Miss Shangguan, how heartless of you, this king has already given you everything along with my heart!"

The female lead that Ning Xueluo was acting as this time was a girl called Shangguan Yingrong, while Zhao Sizhou was acting as a prince.

Hearing so, the reporters laughed along and teased Zhao Sizhou with a warm air.

Other than the actors for the male and female leads, the actress for the supporting female lead was the one that everyone had their eyes on. A crowd was surrounding Guo Qisheng.

"Director Guo, where's the actress for Meng Changge? Will she be here today?"

"Of course."

"Is it true that you rejected Jia Qingqing because she wasn't beautiful enough when she came to audition for this role?"

They were clearly out to cause trouble by asking such questions.

However, Director Guo was an old hand, he spoke smoothly, "We do have a high standard regarding looks for a role like Meng Changge, but appearance is only one of the criteria we use to judge suitability for the role. There was no problem with Jia Qingqing's appearance, but she did not match what we were looking for in terms of feeling!"

"We've heard that the one playing Meng Changge is a rookie? Since Meng Changge is such a demanding role, suddenly choosing to use a rookie for this, will she be able to completely fulfill the expectations?"

What was wrong with the reporters today, had they not given enough 'bonuses' to them? Their questions were clearly out to attack them, and were

even focused on the supporting female lead.

“For that question, please wait until our movie is out, just wait and see!”

The reporters were still unwilling to let go of the question and asked aggressively, “Director Guo, is the actress for Meng Changge prettier than Jia Qingqing?”

Haven't they said enough!

Yes! She's more beautiful than Jia Qingqing!

So what if she's a beauty of a hundred years? Wait till all of you see Ning Xi, let's see if you still dare to praise Jia Qingqing's looks!

“About this, they all have their own merits... you'll know once she's here...”

Guo Qisheng was starting to get annoyed by all these questions. At this moment, glancing over the heads of all the reporters, he spotted someone appearing at the start of the red carpet. He was stunned for at least three seconds before he regained his senses, and he smiled as he said, “Well, look at this, speak of the devil!”

HM Chapter 31

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 31: What Kind of Eyesight Do You Have!

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After saying this, Guo Qisheng had a 'wait and see' expression on his face.

As expected, when all the reporters turned towards the direction that Guo Qisheng was pointing at, their first reaction was to be stunned silly.

Ning Xi was wearing a magenta dress made out of lace. The cutting of the fabric flattered her mesmerising waistline while the collar revealed her beautiful collarbone. This colour was even harder to pull off than pure red and it was even made of lace. Although it had a great design, most people would only look terrible or tacky when wearing it.

However, it was as if that dress was made for Ning Xi. It enhanced her looks and made her even more charming and lovely, thereby causing her beauty to stand out.

When the stylist had picked this dress out for her, Ning Xi herself had also thought that she wouldn't be able to pull it off. However, she had been proven wrong after putting it on.

As expected of the Godly Hand of Golden Age Entertainment, he had great eyes. He knew her better than she knew herself after just one meeting.

Although it was Ning Xi's first time walking the red carpet, she was an actress after all. She had already tried on many various roles with different occupations, which naturally included celebrities, and had even acted as one once or twice. Walking down the red carpet was easy.

Every step, every smile and every action caught just the right angles for the cameras. She could even show the most perfect expressions.

The reporters remained dazed for even longer than Director Guo had, and only regained their senses after a long while.

This... this was Ning Xi, the actress who was going to play Meng Changge?

An unknown rookie without any known work?

This.... wasn't she too beautiful?

There were no other words to describe it, she was just... beautiful!

Now they realised why Director Guo's expression didn't look right when they were so persistent with their questions just now. It was ridiculous to ask whether Jia Qingqing or Ning Xi was more beautiful.

In front of an absolute beauty like Ning Xi, even a 'beautiful' starlet like Jia Qingqing would become just a simple face in the crowd.

It wasn't just her looks, but also the way she held herself that made her stand out from the other rookies. Her gestures were both elegant and open, even exuding an innate nobility.

Ning Xi walked to the center of the red carpet and casually posed a few times to let the media take pictures. Following that, she turned around and picked up the pen from the tray to sign her name on the wall.

This one turn of her body caused a wave of excitement and shutter clicks.

The dress had been designed to reveal the back, and that was one of the reasons the stylist had chosen this dress in the end.

Ning Xi's shoulder blades were simply too beautiful. They were the most entrancing part of her whole body, and it would be too much of a shame if they weren't shown off.

Most female stars liked to reveal cleavage to draw attention when walking the red carpet, but Ning Xi had taken another route, elevating her above the rest.

After murdering countless rolls of film, it was finally time to interview her.

The reporters were actually quite pitiful today.

They had all prepared questions like 'Do you think you'll be able to play a vixen like Meng Changge well with looks like that?', 'Who do you think is prettier, you

or Jia Qingqing?', 'We've heard that you were specially picked outside of official channels, was there a reason for that?'...

Now they weren't able to use any of those questions at all...

As long as they weren't blind, they would know that nothing had happened behind the scenes, her face was just too convincing.

She was just the most suitable person to play Meng Changge.

Thus the reporters had to spin up questions on the spot.

"Miss Ning, may I ask if the dress you're wearing is a customised piece from Karl Lagerfeld?"

Ning Xi was stunned.

What the heck, this was a custom gown from Karl Lagerfeld?

She had casually put on a dress worth thousands of dollars?

Evil King Lu, what were you thinking!!

However, an even more terrifying question was lying in wait for her. Following that question, the same reporter named the origins of each item she was wearing and then asked, "Miss Ning, is Arthur your stylist?"

You could even tell something just like that?

What kind of eyesight do you have!!!

HM Chapter 32

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 32: Troublesome Exes

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on [volaretranslations](#).

“No, I think I must have seen wrongly...” Luckily, without waiting for Ning Xi’s answer, the reporter had already given up on his own question.

He had most likely recalled that Ning Xi was an artist from Starlight, how could Arthur be her stylist when he was the personal stylist for Golden Age’s Su Yimo?

Ning Xi heaved a huge sigh of relief. Worried that they would continue this line of questioning, she quickly spoke up to change the topic, “Since it’s the opening ceremony for 《Land Under Heaven》, it would be better if everyone asked questions related to the movie!”

“Miss Ning, Miss Ning, is this your first time acting in a movie?” Someone in the crowd asked.

“Of course not, I’ve started acting since I graduated from university. However, I didn’t appear in a lot of movies, so you wouldn’t be able to recognise me.” Ning Xi replied honestly, not at all bothered by her sparse resume.

The media could easily get a hold of such details, thus it would be better to be upfront about it.

“So what has Miss Ning acted as previously?”

Although this question was quite normal, it was somewhat awkward for Ning Xi to answer. However, she had to give an answer since they had asked.

“I’ve acted as...” Ning Xi started to list the roles she had played since returning to China.

During the time she had been studying overseas, she had spent most of her

free time acting in movies. She had even acted in a few famous dramas and played many roles. Having a resume like Ning Xi's wasn't easy considering how most movies overseas didn't like using Chinese actors.

However, she could not bring up her experience overseas, because of her ridiculous dating history while she was overseas...

Although she had not done anything immoral and they had dated normally, the identities of her ex-boyfriends were all a little too eye-catching...

What she needed the most right now was a movie that she could openly claim she had starred in. If she was surrounded by the rumours of her love life the moment she entered the entertainment circle and the public was focused on her personal life, she might be able to gather a lot of attention and even become a hot topic overnight if she were lucky. However, it wouldn't bode well for her long term growth.

Ning Xi was trying really hard to remember the roles she had acted since returning to China that she could mention openly. However, the reporters turned speechless upon hearing the list.

What kind of roles were these...

A mistress, a fox spirit, a demoness, a country girl, a brain-dead eldest miss, and even an evil old woman...

For a beauty such as her, what kind of interest is this?

Why did she like to choose roles like those?

Someone eventually asked, "Why do you keep playing antagonist roles?"

Ning Xi could not reveal Chang Li's actions here, so she calmly spoke up, "Actually, I didn't notice. Acting is a much beloved career for me, and every role has its own life. To me, there's no distinction between big or small roles."

Following that, the media asked more questions. Even though she didn't have a manager to guide her, Ning Xi had answered them perfectly one by one.

Guo Qisheng kept nodding as he watched from the side, "This lady is doing really well! Despite having this kind of quality and EQ, she still hasn't managed to make it big yet after entering the industry for a year... What do you think about

this, Old Wang?"

The producer Wang Taihe said meaningfully, "If it's not the upper ranks at Starlight Entertainment turning blind, then it's..."

He gave him a 'you know' look after saying so.

It was clearly someone at Starlight purposely suppressing her.

Guo Qisheng's face was full of pity and regret, "What a waste of such good talent!"

"Well, gold will always shine in the end. Failing that, doesn't she have you?" Wang Taihe chuckled as he said.

At this moment, Ning Xueluo's nails had dug into her palms and her expression had become so ugly that she was close to losing her composure on the red carpet.

She had purposely let Chang Li inform Ning Xi at the last minute to make her a laughing stock at the opening ceremony. However, she had never thought that it would result in her making a stunning appearance to the crowd instead.

Damn it, Ning Xi's outfit alone cost several thousands, how in the world had she gotten this amount of money?

Clothing and accessories could be rented, but who did her styling?

She had underestimated this country girl!

HM Chapter 33

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 33: Trying to Make Me Fall? Not a Chance in Hell

“Xueluo, Ning Xi is your junior, do you have anything to say about her acting a role like Meng Changge?” At this time, a reporter who was trying to trip Ning Xi tossed a question at Ning Xueluo.

Ning Xueluo instantly recovered her calm and elegant expression and sincerely said, “Ning Xi has the skills to pull it off, and I believe she won’t let everyone down...”

Towards all questions concerning Ning Xi, Ning Xueluo would always praise her generously.

Those who weren’t in the know would think that she was trying to support her junior, but Ning Xi saw through Ning Xueluo’s scheming.

This wasn’t helping her, but rather trying to lift her higher so she could fall harder.

She would praise her to high heaven and raise everyone’s expectations before filming started, so that any little mistake later on would become huge disappointments.

Too bad, she wasn’t going to let Ning Xueluo’s schemes come to fruition.

She had piled up her arsenal for five whole years, and she had the confidence to satisfy everyone’s expectations.

You want to make me fall? Let’s wait and see!

When the media interview segment had finally ended, Ning Xi had been preparing to take a short break, but was held back by Chang Li.

“Ning Xi, where did all these come from? Don’t think that the company will

help you pick up the bill for this outfit! As a supporting female lead, don't you know the rules? Who allowed you to steal the limelight?" Chang Li scolded her from the start.

Ning Xi twirled her natural slight curls and spoke lazily, "I didn't want to do that either, but who knew that Chang-jie would try to make me late for the ceremony?"

"You..." Knowing that there were people around right now, Chang Li suppressed her temper, "You had better behave yourself later during the meal, and don't say something that will shame the company! Xueluo doesn't have a good tolerance for alcohol, so remember to receive the toasts in her stead! Do you understand?"

Ning Xi couldn't help but laugh, "You want me to receive the toasts on her behalf? Miss Chang, are you still dreaming? It'll be good enough if I don't toss wine on her!"

Chang Li and Ning Xueluo were in cahoots, so there wouldn't be any use even if she groveled before her. She completely refused to buy it. On the other hand, if she blatantly refused to bend to their whims, Chang Li wouldn't dare to go overboard.

Chang Li was struggling to hold back her temper, "Ning Xi, you've finally grown some backbone. You only got a small supporting role and you've already forgotten your surname?"

Ning Xi had no patience to deal with her and immediately turned to leave.

Chang Li watched Ning Xi's back as she left—even though it was just her back, it was enough to entrance people.

Panic mysteriously rose in her heart.

She already had a premonition that she wouldn't be able to hold back Ning Xi anymore.

This woman was born to act.

Once she started rising, Ning Xueluo wouldn't even be able to hold a candle to her.

However, things had already come to this point. She could only suppress her as much as she could and block any chance of her rising from the ashes.

There was a banquet dinner after the opening ceremony ended.

The crew and anyone else related to the movie were gathered together, drinking and eating as they got to know each other. The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed.

Seeing that Ning Xi had arrived, the screenwriter Ye Linglong was the first to stand up and pull her over to her side, you could tell how satisfied he was with her.

“Speaking of which, isn’t it such a coincidence that the two beauties of our cast both come from the same company and they even have the same surname Ning!” The assistant director Zhang Rui exclaimed.

Ning Xi sneered in her heart.

Hehe, what a coincidence.

They were in the same company, and even under the same manager. However, their circumstances were vastly different.

One was already the star of Starlight, while the other was still buried deep in the lowest layers of the entertainment circle.

As they were talking, the producers and directors suddenly all stood up to welcome someone who was walking in from the entrance. It was the biggest sponsor of the movie, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ning Corporation, Ning Yaohua.

HM Chapter 34

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 34: What a Show of Affection Between Father and Daughter

“We didn’t think that Chairman Ning would have the time to come to our opening ceremony, it’s really such an honour!” Director Guo greeted him warmly in a humble manner.

“Come, sit over here, Chairman Ning!” Producer Wang gave his seat to Chairman Ning so he could sit next to Ning Xueluo.

Ning Yaohua looked at Ning Xueluo lovingly, “Director Guo is being too courteous, my daughter is under your care.”

“The apple doesn’t fall too far from the tree. Chairman Ning, your daughter is so talented that she doesn’t need my care at all!”

“This child is always so busy! Even as her father, I have to personally make a trip or else I wouldn’t get to see her!” Ning Yaohua said angrily. Although he said it with a straight face, there wasn’t a trace of actual anger in his eyes, only fondness.

“Hahaha, you should be happy that Xueluo works so hard. However, Xueluo, you’re also in the wrong. No matter how hard you’re working, you should always return home!” Director Guo got angry.

“I know, Director. I shouldn’t have done that! Dad, don’t get angry, I’ll be home for dinner tomorrow night!” Ning Xueluo hugged Ning Yaohua’s arm and acted coquettishly, having the appearance of an obedient daughter.

“Look at this, I need the director to help me talk to my daughter before she agrees to come home for dinner!”

“Dad, there are so many people here, leave me some dignity!”

“Yes yes yes, you’re a big star now, I can’t even admonish you anymore!”

.....

Ning Xi thought that she had already refined her heart into steel. She didn’t think that she would see such a show of fatherly affection and daughterly devotion here. Her chest tightened to the point of suffocating, and she was close to bolting out the door.

Although she couldn’t control her inner heart, she could cover it up by acting perfectly on the surface. She discussed the script with the screenwriter calmly, as if she didn’t notice what was going on opposite her.

She could ignore it, but some people were unable to do so. Ning Yaohua’s gaze was like a knife cutting her body, as if seeing her at a public event was something shameful and disgusting.

Ning Xi finally borrowed the excuse of needing the washroom to leave the room and get some fresh air next to an open window in the corridor.

She dug in her bag and brought out a pack of cigarettes and a lighter. She held onto the thin cigarette for quite a while before finally putting it back.

She was in the middle of quitting.

Today was the first time she had actually lost to the urge.

The night breeze blowing strongly on her face helped her feel a little better.

At this moment, the sound of footsteps sounded from behind her.

Ning Xi’s back stiffened, but she turned anyway. The expression on her face was like a mask that revealed no emotions, “Are you looking for me, Chairman Ning?”

Ning Yaohua stared at her with a heavy gaze, looking at her eye-catching outfit unhappily.

Ning Xi lowered her eyes and smiled shallowly, “Heh, Chairman Ning, you were also staring at me in this manner in the room just now. Aren’t you afraid that others will mistake your intentions towards me?”

In the eyes of others, he was a sponsor, while her identity was that of a pretty

female starlet. It was the easiest kind of relationship to start rumours about.

“You bastard, what kind of words are you saying?” Ning Yaohua was abruptly in a rage.

Ning Xi raised her brows, “Of course I’m speaking in a human language, is Chairman Dong not human?”

“You...” Ning Yaohua suddenly raised his hand.

Before it landed, it was grabbed by a slender wrist.

How could she allow Ning Yaohua to hit her again?

He didn’t have the right to do so.

Ning Yaohua was enraged. He violently pulled his hand back, “I want you to withdraw from this role right now. Don’t shame me in front of others!”

Ning Xi’s expression was cold, “I got this role fair and square, so how would it shame you in any way?”

“You’re just following whatever Xueluo wants to do. Take a look at yourself, you can’t measure up to Xueluo. You were so eager to enter the entertainment industry. Are you just waiting for someone to dig out your dirty past and shame the Ning family?” Ning Yaohua watched her with an expression of extreme disgust.

HM Chapter 35

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 35: That Youth is No Longer Here

Up till now there were still people who would bring up the incidents where Ning Yaohua's daughter had drunk the lemon water meant for washing hands and worn a counterfeit dress to a banquet as jokes. If other people managed to dig up the ugly truth of what had happened that year, then how could he still show his face in those circles?

Ning Xi's face turned pale after hearing Ning Yaohua's words.

That night, that stranger, that dead infant...

This was her Achilles heel.

The Ning family had covered up the whole incident due to fear of embarrassment, and Ning Xueluo had not spoken of it outside due to fear of the truth getting exposed. However, this had been her greatest nightmare ever since the start.

“I’m giving you the chance to gracefully exit the stage on your own. Since you don’t want it, then don’t blame me for not considering our relationship as father and daughter.”

“Heh, to think we still had something like a father-daughter relationship between us...”

“Dad, Xiao Xi... what’s going on?” Ning Xueluo’s surprised voice sounded from behind them.

Upon seeing Ning Xueluo, Ning Yaohua’s face changed to a loving expression, “It’s nothing, you don’t have to worry about it. When you go back, get your company to find someone else more suitable for the supporting female lead.”

The other meaning in his words was that Ning Xi was to be switched out.

Ning Xueluo was rejoicing in her heart, but she acted anxious on the surface, “Dad, why?” Xiao Xi has been set as the supporting female lead!”

“It’s already good enough for her to act in minor roles. How could she have the ability to act such an important role? I’ve invested 30 million yuan into this movie, and this isn’t somewhere she can play around!”

“But, Dad, Xiao Xi worked really hard to get into this movie...”

“Xueluo, you don’t have to speak for her. What did I tell you previously? I told you not to help her, but you wouldn’t listen! You even praised her in front of the reporters! Does she deserve it?”

“But, Xiao Xi is your...”

“Quiet, you’re not allowed to mention that sort of thing ever again! I’ve said it before, you’re my only daughter!”

“Dad, please don’t get angry. I won’t do it anymore, okay?”

“I have some other business later. I’m leaving now. If you have some time, then help me persuade her to stop being so stubborn!” Ning Yaohua shot a warning look towards Ning Xi, then turned to leave with a cold expression.

After Ning Yaohua had left, the well-behaved expression on Ning Xueluo’s face slowly melted away as she spoke innocently, “Ning Xi, this time it wasn’t me who was trying to make things difficult for you. I had wanted to give you a chance, only...”

“Ha...” Ning Xi couldn’t hold back a laugh. In that one sound, there was endless despair.

Who would have thought that the one who would wipe out all her efforts and push her back into obscurity would be her very own biological father?

She had spent so much effort preparing for this role all this time and had fought so hard to acquire it...

...but all her efforts had been in vain.

When the banquet had ended, it was already 11pm.

It seemed to be true that a person would get drunk easily if they were in a bad mood.

Ning Xi felt that she hadn't drunk much today, but she started wobbling when she stood up, and her temples started throbbing in pain.

It was right at this moment that she saw someone who would make her feel even worse...

Su Yan...

Some of the cast, especially the women, had already started exclaiming in surprise upon spotting the new arrival.

"Ah! It's Young Master Su! How handsome! He's a hundred times more handsome than the rumours!"

"He must be here to escort Ning Xueluo! I'm so envious of her, her acting career is going so well, her family background is so good and her boyfriend is so handsome! She really is a winner at life!"

"This kind of person has already won on the starting line. We don't even have the right to envy her!"

.....

Ning Xi held onto the wall, somewhat stupidly looking at the man who was walking towards Ning Xueluo step by step.

The Su family had been doing quite well these few years. Su Yan's social status had risen accordingly. Ning Xi could no longer see the youth of the past in him.

That sickly youth who had been living in the countryside to recuperate from a lung disease, the Su-gege who had read stories to her warmly, had already died in the passing of time...

HM Chapter 36

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 36: Which God of Wealth Has Arrived?

“Su-gege, why are you here? Didn’t I say that there’s no need to pick me up?” Ning Xueluo skipped over to the man happily.

“I couldn’t stop worrying since it started raining outside.” Su Yan took off his jacket and put it on her. He looked at her unhappily, “Why are you wearing so little?”

Ning Xueluo had a sweet expression on her face, “Oh you, I’m already a grown woman! Why are you still treating me like a child?”

Ning Xi leaned against the icy cold wall with uneven steps. She felt that she was really unlucky today.

For the whole night, she had been treated to Ning Xueluo’s show of parental affection, and now it was a lovey-dovey scene.

Ning Xueluo was completely showing off everything she had taken away from her...

Not satisfied with just making her watch, Ning Xueluo hugged Su Yan’s arm and purposely walked towards her. She said warmly, “Little junior, you seem to be quite drunk. Why don’t you join us? I’ll let my *boyfriend* send you home!”

Ning Xueluo deliberately emphasised the word ‘boyfriend’.

At this moment, Su Yan finally noticed Ning Xi. His pupils abruptly tightened upon seeing her.

Ning Xi...

It had been a long time.

In the years she had been overseas, he had not seen her even once. Even after

she had returned, he had only seen her a few times from afar when he went to pick Xueluo up at the company.

He was caught off guard by seeing her up close. She was so different that he almost couldn't recognise her.

The little girl who had worn braids and a flowery skirt back then, had blossomed into a woman who could move any man's heart without his knowing...

Seeing that Su Yan was looking at Ning Xi dazedly, a dark emotion flashed across Ning Xueluo's eyes. She grabbed his arm and shook it, "Su-gege, what do you say?"

Su Yan suddenly regained his senses and nodded hastily, "Yes, let's go together."

"Junior Ning... Junior Ning? Are you okay?" Ning Xueluo showed a caring expression.

Ning Xi pressed on her forehead with the back of her hand. Her mind was growing more and more hazy under the influence of alcohol. Her heart was beating faster and her blood was almost rushing backwards. It was as if there was a beast roaring inside her body, struggling to break free so that it could tear up the two pretentious masks in front of her...

"No need..." Ning Xi turned and stumbled towards the restroom before she completely lost control.

Watching Ning Xi's sorry figure escape, Ning Xueluo finally let out a refreshed smile. However, her expression immediately changed into an extremely sad one when she turned towards Su Yan, "Su-gege, I think Xiao Xi isn't willing to forgive me... I'm already trying my best to make it up to her... I've been doing whatever I can to help her in the company, but she's still like this. I don't know what to do anymore..."

"Don't mind it! Xiao Xi's personality is like that, she'll forgive you when time passes!" Su Yan reassured her softly.

At the ground floor of the hotel, a group of girls from the crew were excitedly discussing the sports car Su Yan had driven in on.

“I just searched online and I found out that this Maserati is at least 100 million yuan! He’s way too rich!”

“I want to find a rich boyfriend too, how many years will it take till I can find one?”

“Most importantly, he’s so handsome! There are so many stars who married someone rich, but they’re all pot-bellied middle-aged men... Just looking at them makes my stomach churn...”

.....

As they were gossiping, they spotted Su Yan and Ning Xueluo walking towards them from the hotel.

The picture of a handsome man and a beautiful woman standing together was simply a feast for the eyes.

Everyone looked on enviously as Ning Xueluo entered that sports car, still wearing Su Yan’s jacket. They waited until they could no longer see the car before sighing...

Not long after that car had left, the roar of an engine could be heard heading towards them. Following that, a silvery white sports car zoomed past them and came to a stop in front of the hotel.

Most importantly, this car...

This car was too damn outstanding!

That handsome low chassis, smooth body and cool scissor doors gave off the feeling of a masterpiece...

Most importantly, the price...

“What the, that’s the Bugatti Veyron Super Sport, the world’s most expensive supercar... It costs over a billion yuan at the very least... My god... which god of wealth has arrived...”

TL Note: The Bugatti Veyron Super Sport apparently costs USD1.4 million o.o

HM Chapter 37

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 37: Entering the Female Restroom To Find Her

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

In the car, Little Treasure stared at the phone waiting for a reply, his expression one of great suffering and hatred.

Lu Tingxiao unfastened his seatbelt, “I’ll go take a look, wait for me here.”

Little Treasure grabbed onto the corner of his father’s shirt, indicating that he wanted to tag along with him.

Lu Tingxiao looked at his son, “If she’s drunk, I can only carry one of you.”

Little Treasure puffed up his cheeks, indicating that he wasn’t satisfied with the answer. He didn’t need anyone to carry him!

Lu Tingxiao’s expression darkened, “Unfortunately, my trust in you is at its lowest since the incident from last time. I’m unable to believe that you’ll be able to take care of yourself. If you get lost again, even I won’t be able to bear the consequences. Understand?”

Little Treasure bowed his head with a lonely expression.

Realising that he had spoken too seriously, Lu Tingxiao rubbed his son’s little head, “I’ll be right back.”

“Lao Zhang, bring the car to the underground garage.”

“Yes, young master.”

Under the excited gazes of the crowd gathered at the hotel entrance, the car door slowly opened and a man stepped out.

He was wearing a grey western suit, his body was long and lean and he had a

powerful aura.

“Ah— It’s... It’s Lu Tingxiao!! I was wondering which god of wealth had come. I didn’t think it would be *the* God of Wealth! I totally predicted it, other than the God of Wealth, who else could afford to drive such an expensive car!? The Su family obviously can’t even compare to Master Lu!”

“Heavens, hold me for a bit, I’m going to faint... I’ve only seen him on a magazine once, I didn’t think I’d meet the real person here! I really want to go ask him for his signature and have him sign it on my panties!!!”

“Those handsome and famous actors can only kneel before our Master Lu! If Master Lu enters the entertainment circle, how would they continue surviving?”

“You’re still dreaming! We’ve already used up a lifetime of luck to see him this close in person! You still want him to enter the entertainment circle for your viewing pleasure everyday?”

.....

The people at the door continued gossiping fervently long after the man in question had entered the hotel.

“Big Boss Lu is usually swarmed by a retinue wherever he appears. Why is he coming to a hotel alone so late at night?”

“Who knows, anyway he can’t possibly coming here for a woman!”

“It’s such a shame that an outstanding man like that doesn’t get close to women! Why do you think Lu Tingxiao won’t get close to women?”

“He probably likes men!”

“That’s just nonsense! If he likes men, then where did his son come from? I feel that Master Lu must be the kind that’s deeply in love. His feelings for the child’s mother are so deep that he’s been keeping her secret for so many years!”

.....

Lu Tingxiao found that the cast and crew had all left when he got upstairs. The group of people at the hotel’s entrance were most likely the last batch. However, only Ning Xi was missing.

He tried calling Ning Xi's phone as he walked down the corridors searching for her.

No one picked up.

As he was passing by the restrooms, Lu Tingxiao suddenly paused his steps. He could hear a phone ringing.

After standing still and listening for a while, he realised it was coming from the female restroom.

Lu Tingxiao ended the call, and the sound stopped.

After heaving a sigh of relief at finally finding the person he was looking for, Lu Tingxiao furrowed his brows.

He couldn't enter the female restroom to find her.

Since she had not reacted at all to the loud ringing of her phone, she must be quite drunk.

“Ning Xi?”

Lu Tingxiao tried calling for her, but as expected, there was no reply.

He stood in front of the sink between the male and female restrooms, and raised his long fingers to pinch at the center of his brows. The expression on his face was as if he were making a decision on a 10 billion yuan business deal.

TL Note: 10 billion yuan = ~USD1.4 billion c:

HM Chapter 38

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 38: You're the Evil Demon King

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Fortunately, CEO Lu was in luck. Since it was late, there was no one else in the female restroom. He could see Ning Xi sitting on the ground and leaning against a door, completely drunk.

She had kicked her heels off to different places, and the things in her bag had been tossed all over the floor. Her hair covered her face in a messy manner. She looked like a completely different person from the radiant woman he had parted with earlier.

A trace of sympathetic affection flashed across Lu Tingxiao's eyes. He walked over and picked up her bag. After retrieving all the items that had been scattered about, he then picked up her shoes and reached out towards her waist and knees.

As he was about to carry her, Ning Xi suddenly grabbed onto the door with a death grip. Her drunken gaze swung towards him, and she stared at him with extreme caution, "Who are you..."

"Lu Tingxiao."

"Lu Tingxiao..." Ning Xi turned dazed before she suddenly exploded in rage, "You liar! Do you think I'm an idiot!? This is the female restroom!"

Was this girl really drunk? She seemed to still have her wits about her?

"I'm not lying."

"Liar... I'm not going... I don't want to go with you..." Drunk Ning Xi was like a little porcupine that had suffered a scare, she was completely guarded.

Ning Xi completely refused to leave, so Lu Tingxiao could only put down the things in his hands for the moment to coax her, "What do I have to do to make you believe me?"

"Show me your ID!" Ning Xi looked like a traffic cop investigating a drunk driver.

The corner of Lu Tingxiao's mouth twitched, then he obediently pulled out his wallet and passed his ID over to her like a good citizen.

Ning Xi held onto the thin card shakily, her eyes almost pressed up against the card as she read word by word, "Lu... Ting... Xiao... You're Lu Tingxiao..."

Lu Tingxiao nodded in satisfaction, "Can we go now?"

"Not going! I don't want to go with you! You're the evil demon king... I'm not going. Not going, not going..." Ning Xi became even more agitated.

"Evil demon king..." Lu Tingxiao's face turned black. So that was the image she had of him in her heart? He thought that he had treated her quite warmly.

The two were in a stalemate, when the sound of footsteps came from beyond the door.

"Ning Xi... Ning Xi, are you inside?"

Lu Tingxiao's back stiffened in an instant. If someone saw him in the female restroom right now, he would never live it down.

The sounds of footsteps drew closer and closer, to the point where they could already see the person's clothes. Lu Tingxiao cursed quietly and quickly grabbed all of Ning Xi's belongings and stuffed her into the cubicle.

It was the screenwriter, Ye Linglong, who had come to look for Ning Xi.

Ning Xi was a rookie and was not acquainted with anyone in the crew. Only Ye Linglong had noticed that she hadn't returned from the restroom for a long time, so she had gone to look for her.

Within the cubicle, Ning Xi was frightened from suddenly being dragged inside and was struggling in the man's embrace. The noise caught the attention of Ye Linglong outside.

“Ning Xi, is that you?”

Hearing the voice closing in on them, Lu Tingxiao’s expression turned even darker. It was right at this moment that the girl actually bit the hand he was covering her mouth with—it hurt so much that he furrowed his brows.

Lu Tingxiao’s expression was slowly showing signs of collapse, when had he ever been in such a sorry situation?

After taking a deep breath, Lu Tingxiao spoke up, his voice turned husky from trying to suppress his emotions, “Calm down... I’ll give it to you now...”

Ye Linglong had been about to knock on the door when a man’s voice had come from inside. She froze for a moment before realising what was going on. Her cheeks reddened, and she quickly ran out.

She hadn’t thought that she would actually come across some people doing ‘that’ here.

This was a hotel, why couldn’t they just get a room? She really couldn’t understand the hobbies of some people!

Since she wasn’t in the female restroom, where had Ning Xi run off to...

There was one thought that had never crossed Ye Linglong’s mind: The one doing ‘that’ in the restroom was the one she had been looking for, Ning Xi!

Upon hearing the sound of footsteps receding from outside the door, Lu Tingxiao sighed in relief.

He sat on the toilet bowl cover, loosened his tie, and placed the struggling woman on his lap. He then snapped coldly, “Stop causing trouble!”

Otherwise, he wouldn’t mind doing ‘that’ for real.

The man’s tone was too fearsome, Ning Xi was so shocked that she started hiccupping. She looked at him as if she had been bullied.

Lu Tingxiao had scared her just for a moment, yet he could only helplessly switch to gently patting her back as he coaxed, “Sorry, I shouldn’t have been so fierce with you.”

However, the person in his arms seemed to become even more upset. Tears

started rolling endlessly down her cheeks.

Lu Tingxiao was momentarily helpless.

How could she be so much harder to coax than Little Treasure?

HM Chapter 39

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 39: It's Not Big Enough

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volaretranslations.

“Their mothers! Who do they think they are, every single one of them!” Ning Xi suddenly raised a fist agitatedly. If Lu Tingxiao had not reacted quickly, his jaw would have been dislocated by this punch.

“Girls shouldn’t cuss.” Lu Tingxiao knitted his brows.

Although she looked cute when she was swearing.

While Ning Xi was very drunk, her subconscious mind could feel that the person embracing her at the moment was very warm, and had no bad intentions. She slowly relaxed into his arms and slurred drunkenly as she sat in his lap, “It’s only because I feel it’s beneath me... Otherwise... Otherwise with this face... I could find a... a big leg to hug... You think you can suppress me... I’ll go find one now... right now...”

Lu Tingxiao raised his eyebrow slightly. He picked up the woman’s hand gently with his coarse palm and placed it on his thigh, “The biggest leg in the capital is right here, where else are you going to find a better one?”

Ning Xi touched that toned thigh all over, then abruptly raged, “It’s not big enough! It’s not big at all!”

Lu Tingxiao: “...”

He had been deemed ‘not big enough’.

This was something no man could accept.

What was worse, her hand moved about until it touched a place that should not be touched, and she even patted it, “Ooh, what’s this... Annoying... it poked

my hand..."

Her tone was full of disdain.

Lu Tingxiao's expression was dark.

If he let her continue like this, then he was afraid he would do something he would regret.

The person outside had already left, so Lu Tingxiao quickly opened the door, carrying Ning Xi as he walked out.

At the underground carpark.

The one who eagerly ran over to open the door for him was Lu Jingli.

"You're here?" Lu Tingxiao frowned.

"I went to look for you at home, but both you and Little Treasure weren't there so I came over to look for you! Bro, what happened to the bro code? When did you buy this car? It's even more impressive than the one you gave to me, and I didn't even know you had this!" Lu Jingli's expression was full of resentment.

Lu Tingxiao ignored him and carried Ning Xi to the backseat without leave.

Lu Jingli sat in the front passenger seat and turned around to stare at them. His shining gaze took in Lu Tingxiao and Ning Xi's disheveled clothing. Expecting some gossip, he asked, "Where did you pick her up from? Why did you take so long? See how our Little Treasure is about to turn into a statue!"

The moment he saw Ning Xi, Little Treasure stopped pressing his face against the car window and stuck to her instead.

Lu Tingxiao had initially been worried that Ning Xi would have some sort of agitated reaction to Little Treasure's presence in her drunken state. He hadn't thought that she would only draw the little guy into her embrace and hug him comfortably like a bolster.

Of course Lu Tingxiao would not satisfy a certain person's desire for gossip. He methodically removed his tie, and removed his sweaty coat, "What happened today?"

Happy at being called to action for his information-gathering skills, Lu Jingli

immediately replied excitedly, “From what I heard, everything was going smoothly. You even called Arthur over, so of course little Xixi succeeded in stealing the show. She was received well by the media too!”

“Who did she meet tonight?” Lu Tingxiao asked again.

Lu Jingli tried to recall, “Other than the cast and crew, there was only Ning Yaohua. Other than that...”

Lu Jingli glanced at his brother’s expression, then deliberately considered his words before speaking up, “Su Yan... I’m guessing that she was upset that her old flame became her rival’s man, so she got drunk...”

Although Lu Jingli had already picked his words carefully, Lu Tingxiao’s face still turned black in an instant.

It was so scary.

TL Note: In Chinese, ‘a big leg to hug’ means a backer with a lot of influence. In Ning Xi’s case, she was implying that she can find a sugar daddy at any time, but that she found it beneath her. Lu Tingxiao used the phrase ‘big leg to hug’ literally to make a joke... and got taken advantage of instead.

HM Chapter 40

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 40: Baby, I Really Want to Marry You

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Lu Jingli coughed, “Er, it’s not strange though. Ning Xi wasn’t being serious with all those people she was dating overseas. She would dump them when she was done with no hesitation at all. However, this Su Yan is probably the only man she has ever truly loved.”

Lu Tingxiao’s expression turned even uglier after his explanation.

Lu Jingli was somewhat speechless at this. He thought inwardly, *you guys aren’t even together yet, what right do you have to massacre everyone she’s ever dated?*

“Bro, even if you’re prepared to stick around and wait until she falls in love with you, at least bring her over to Golden Age first. It’s so inconvenient that she’s in our rival company, Starlight! From what I know, she’s being bullied terribly by Ning Xueluo there!” Lu Jingli grumbled.

Lu Tingxiao watched the girl who had become quiet after hugging Little Treasure with an unreadable expression, “It’s not time yet.”

After finally reaching their home, a problem arose as they were getting out of the car.

Ning Xi had spotted the silvery white sports car at the side, and her eyes had lit up like a hungry wolf. She clung to the car and refused to leave, and her expression was like a little girl who had finally found her dream man, “Oh! Little White! My darling!”

Lu Tingxiao’s expression was changing furiously like traffic lights.

He had gone through such a hard time fetching her back, even risking his reputation to bring her out of the female restroom. However, she hadn't shown any gratitude, and had even called him an evil demon king. Now she was actually hugging a car and calling it her darling?

"Hahaha... Bro, surely you're not jealous of a car! See, why did you just have to drive this car out? Little Xixi loved racing cars when she was overseas, and she's actually a pro at racing! Of course she wouldn't have any resistance against the number one sports car in the world!" Lu Jingli was gloating in his brother's misfortune.

However, he soon found that there was someone was even worse off than Lu Tingxiao.

That person was Little Treasure.

Seeing that his personal nickname 'darling' had been stolen by a car, the little guy was close to tears.

However, the cause of all the trouble, Ning Xi, was still touching the car all over with infatuation, "Darling you're too too too cool... You're simply too irresistible! I want to marry you!"

Lu Tingxiao's knuckles cracked, and he had the sudden urge to curse.

She had reacted like he was a rampaging wild beast when he had proposed to her, but now she was actually proposing to a freaking car?

Lu Tingxiao rolled up his sleeves one by one, "Old Zhang, bring me a hammer."

Lu Jingli, who had been laughing until he was out of breath, immediately jumped up, "Don't! Bro, calm down! This car is almost 2 billion yuan! If you don't want it, then give it to me! I'll bring it away right now! I guarantee that it won't appear in front of your eyes ever again!"

Just as he said so, Lu Jingli's whole world flipped over as he was thrown over the shoulder by the frail-looking Ning Xi.

"Who dares to touch my Little White!" Ning Xi's beautiful face was currently full of murderous intent, as if she would kill even the gods.

Lu Jingli held onto his injured waist, "Good sir, please spare me, I was wrong..."

It felt like this girl was a seasoned practitioner of judo. He felt like he had lost half his life just being thrown by her!

After getting rid of the threat, Ning Xi immediately dove into the driver's seat and hugged the steering wheel, "Little White, don't be scared..."

"Eldest Young Master, this..." Old Zhang, who had been squeezed out of the driver's seat, was stupefied.

Lu Tingxiao pinched the center of his brows and waved him away, indicating for him to leave.

He looked at his son, "Little Treasure, it's late. Go back first and sleep."

Little Treasure, who had been immersed in the feeling of losing the affection of his favourite person, immediately shook his head like a rattle.

Lu Tingxiao didn't get angry, but calmly spoke, "You should know that girls don't like showing their worst sides to the person they care most about."

The person they care most about...

Little Treasure looked like he was in deep thought for a few seconds, then he obediently turned and left.

Lu Jingli's eyes bulged out, "Bro, you're too shameless! You're lying to kids!"

"Is there anything else?"

"Of course, I want to let you feel the burning of this giant mega-watt light bulb!"

The icy cold gaze of his dear brother pierced deep into his bones.

"Fine, I'm leaving, I'm leaving..." Lu Jingli turned back to look at them dubiously right before leaving.

Leaving this couple and that sports car alone, nothing was going to happen, right...

Heh heh, that 63x zoom long range camera was going to come in handy!

HM Chapter 41

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 41: Do You Want More?

“You... what do you want to do?” Seeing Lu Tingxiao suddenly seating himself in the front passenger seat, Ning Xi hugged the steering wheel as if she was protecting her food.

Lu Tingxiao leaned against the seat, his expression darkening.

Ha, what did he want to do?

She had best never find out.

Currently, he only had a white shirt on his upper body. He suppressed the fire burning inside and roughly unbuttoned his collar... then the next button, and the next button after that...

Ning Xi was watching the man next to her cautiously from start to end. Seeing the man slowly unbuttoning his shirt and revealing that solid, fine chest, she became so entranced she even forgot about her little White for a moment...

Lu Tingxiao had not noticed her expression at all. He was strongly suppressing his uncontrolled emotions from this night-he had actually gotten jealous of a car. He lit up a cigarette and fiercely took a drag, then blew out a long trail of smoke.

The moment Lu Tingxiao had taken out the cigarette, Ning Xi was already past the point of resistance. She stared at him unblinkingly, at that smooth throat and the white cigarette held by his thin lips, and at the smoke slowly rising...

Due to the burning gaze from beside him, Lu Tingxiao finally turned his head and saw Ning Xi's thirsty expression.

With a lapse of concentration, Lu Tingxiao almost misunderstood her gaze, until he realised that her gaze was not focused on him at all.

What had made her ‘thirsty’ was not him, but the cigarette he was holding.

The only thing Lu Jingli was good at was gathering information. In the background information he had sent over, all the details from her family background to her hobbies and even the small fact that she was currently trying to quit smoking had been included.

Lu Tingxiao immediately understood that she was relapsing.

It was fine that he couldn’t match up to an old flame. It was also fine that he couldn’t match up to a car. However, now he wasn’t even on the same level as a cigarette.

Lu Tingxiao had never felt this defeated and had never felt this much self-doubt in his life.

He had wanted to have her all to himself from the moment he had met her, yet he always had to think twice over every single step in consideration of her feelings. However, she had never even considered him as a potential partner, and had always drawn the lines between them clearly.

She would rather go find someone else to be her sugar daddy than be his wife.

People said that if someone was unable to forget an old flame, it was because the new partner wasn’t good enough. Could he be the problem? She got this drunk because of the old flame that had abandoned her?

He knew that the best way to court her was to do it step by step, so he had always suppressed his urges and followed this principle. However, he hadn’t thought that his rationality was so weak that it would fly out the window the moment there was just a tiny spark.

Lu Tingxiao smoked the cigarette as his emotions churned. The red glow of the cigarette’s lit end was reflected in his eyes as his low voice rumbled in the car, “You want to smoke?”

Ning Xi nodded without hesitation, she could no longer tell if she was being attracted by the cigarette, or this man in front of her.

Lu Tingxiao flicked away the ashes, then took in another drag of the cigarette under Ning Xi’s fervent gaze. In the next instant, he suddenly leaned over and

pressed his tobacco-flavoured lips against the girl's lips...

Ning Xi's eyes widened. She could only feel the strong scent of tobacco and the cold air of the man enveloping her before her lips were pushed open by something soft, and a mouthful of smoke entered her mouth without any obstruction.

Being entirely unprepared, she choked and started coughing nonstop.

Lu Tingxiao took another hit of the remaining half of the cigarette with a calm expression and watched the girl cough until she teared up. She looked even more alluring like this, tempting him to bully her even more. He asked, "Do you want more?"

HM Chapter 42

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 42: Good Night, My Girl

Ning Xi glared at the man like he was a big bad bully as she tried to recover from her coughing fit.

“Heh...” Lu Tingxiao laughed when he saw that little expression. His humour rippled in the depths of his eyes. He extinguished the cigarette butt and puffed out the smoke in his mouth before once again leaning over, tilting his head and covering her lips.

Ning Xi subconsciously tried to escape, but a palm held onto her twisting waist and a low voice coaxed temptingly at the sensitive edge of her ear, “I won’t let you choke this time.”

Having said so, an intense tobacco-flavoured kiss engulfed her consciousness...

Ning Xi was kissed until she was muddleheaded. Her mind was a mess, floating amidst the clouds.

The only thing clear to her was that, this man holding her with one arm, was even more dangerous than smoking.

With a bang, the seat behind her fell back, and following that was the man’s burning hot body.

Her breath was slowly being robbed from her, and Ning Xi slowly felt her consciousness grow even fuzzier and fuzzier until she finally sunk into the depths...

Sensing that there was no reaction from below him, Lu Tingxiao raised his head slightly and saw that a certain person was currently sleeping thoughtlessly, even snoring a little...

Lu Tingxiao's reddened pupils suddenly recovered their normal black colour, and the rage in his heart completely disappeared.

Ha, he was really crazy, what was he doing getting angry at a drunk person...

It had only been three days.

Three days since they met.

Why was he being so hasty?

The attraction he had to this girl was completely irrational.

When he had first seen her, he had had a crazy feeling of recovering something he had lost.

It felt like she was an old friend even though it was their first meeting.

When he had picked her up in the storeroom of that bar, he had actually had the feeling of finding the thing he was missing in his life, like she was a treasure he had lost unknowingly.

He wanted to make her completely his right now.

However, he didn't want to lose her, so he had to wait.

Lu Tingxiao retrieved a blanket and pillow from the back, adjusted the temperature of the air conditioning, then laid by her side and kissed her forehead.

"Good night, my girl."

The next morning.

Ning Xi woke up in a warm embrace.

She raised a hand to rub her eyes, and saw patches of green leaves from the window above her head. Bright and beautiful sunlight was streaming through the gaps in the leaves and shining warmly on her body. There was even melodious chirping from the birds...

Erm, where was she?

Lowering her eyes to scan her surroundings, she was surprised to find that she was actually sleeping in a car. More accurately, sleeping in Lu Tingxiao's

embrace.

What. The. Heck!

Ning Xi frantically tried to get up, and hit her head on the roof of the car-it hurt so much that she gritted her teeth in pain.

She... Lu Tingxiao... in the car...

Damn it, what happened last night? Why was she in a situation like that the moment she woke up!?

It was hard not to misunderstand with the scene before her!

“What are you thinking?”

Ning Xi bit her finger anxiously, her mind was in a mess. She answered subconsciously: “I’m thinking whether I had sex in a car with the evil demon king while drunk last night, this is so scary...”

“Evil demon king... car sex...? If it were like you said, do you think you would have the strength to jump around and let your imagination run wild this morning?” From the man’s voice, you could tell that he was holding back his rage and gritting his teeth.

“AH-” Ning Xi belatedly found out that Lu Tingxiao had already woken up. She was so frightened that she jumped up and almost hit her head again. Luckily, Lu Tingxiao was already prepared and used his hand to protect the top of her head.

“Mr... Mr Lu...”

“Call me by my name.” Lu Tingxiao’s tone was slightly cool.

She would call him Mr Lu when she was trying to distance herself, and call him Master Lu when she was scared of him. He didn’t like it at all.

Ning Xi wondered if it was her misperception, but it seemed like something about Lu Tingxiao had changed in a single night...

HM Chapter 43

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 43: Bite Me Again

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Or maybe she should say that it wasn't him that changed, but rather that he had hidden his true self away and she had never really understood him.

Ning Xi's gaze inadvertently landed on the traces of blood on the back of his hand, she asked, "Lu... Lu Tingxiao, what happened to your hand?"

Lu Tingxiao glanced sideways at that circle of teeth marks, then looked at her with a hint of a smile, "What do you think?"

Ning Xi swallowed once, "These teeth marks... look a little familiar..."

There was a trace of praise in Lu Tingxiao's expression, "Well spotted."

"Uh, thanks for the compliment." Ning Xi coughed once and smiled awkwardly before she asked carefully, "I did that?"

"Do you think I'm framing you? You can bite me again to compare." Lu Tingxiao suggested, before offering his hand to her.

Ning Xi waved her hands, embarrassed, "No need, there is absolutely no need for that! I admit! I admit that I was the culprit! Although... what happened last night? I don't remember much after drinking, I only recall that I entered the restroom, and I can't remember anything after that... How did I get back here?"

"You collapsed in the female restroom and I went in to carry you out. You refused to go with me and even bit me." Lu Tingxiao's answer was simple and concise.

Ning Xi was stupefied, "You... You entered the female restroom..."

She had really committed a huge sin! The evil demon king had sacrificed way

too much...

“Then why am I sleeping in a car?” Ning Xi summoned enough courage to ask.

“Because you refused to part with your little darling.” Lu Tingxiao emphasised the two words ‘little darling’ with a light tone.

Ning Xi glanced at the car she had idolised for so long, and immediately believed what Lu Tingxiao had said.

“I’m so sorry, I’ve caused trouble for you!” Ning Xi apologised weakly.

She felt terribly embarrassed for having caused so much trouble when it was only the second night she was staying over.

Lu Tingxiao did not receive her words, but shot out a seemingly unrelated question, “Why did you drink so much last night?”

Hearing this, Ning Xi’s expression turned solemn.

Seeing her sudden change in expression, the sleeping beast in Lu Tingxiao’s heart started to stir.

Ning Xi did not have the habit of sharing her personal worries with others. However, it felt so terrible keeping it in her heart that she just had to share. She leaned bonelessly against her seat and turned her head upwards to look at the greenery above her head as she mumbled, “I’m afraid that my role as Meng Changge... is gone...”

Astonishment flashed across Lu Tingxiao’s face, “Why?”

“Since it’s only a small role as a supporting female lead, I know that you might not understand my feelings since you’re a CEO. You don’t know how hard I worked for this day, you don’t know how happy I was to get this role... All of you don’t know...” As she was talking, Ning Xi suddenly raised a hand to cover her eyes.

Lu Tingxiao had assumed that she had lost control over Su Yan and had never thought that the cause would be something else.

She wasn’t upset over Su Yan. Instead, she was upset because she had lost that role?

The gloom he had been feeling the whole night dissipated in an instant. However, seeing how upset the girl was, his heart clenched in sympathy.

How could he not know how important her dream was to her?

Otherwise, why would she have continued stubbornly climbing upwards step by step despite knowing that there were shortcuts she could have taken?

“Don’t be sad, you’ve already done very well.” Lu Tingxiao shifted the girl’s head to rest against his chest.

So the culprit wasn’t Su Yan, but... Ning Yaohua.

Ning Yaohua was the biggest sponsor for the movie《Land Under Heaven》, and he had the right to decide the cast in the end.

No one was allowed to bully his girl, not even her own father.

HM Chapter 44

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 44: Flirting Abilities Awakened

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After Ning Xi had finally calmed down, she realised that she had been crying in Lu Tingxiao's embrace for half an hour.

It was... too shocking...

Excluding the times when she had to cry for filming, she hadn't really cried her heart out for a whole five years.

"Uh, sorry, I dirtied your clothes..." Ning Xi was embarrassed after seeing the mess she had made of Lu Tingxiao's shirt.

The corners of his lips lifted slightly, "It's an honour for my shirt."

Ning Xi was immediately dazed, and her heart beat wildly from the blow.

She had always thought that Lu Tingxiao was the kind of genius that had high IQ and low EQ.

Who would have thought that when he would be this deadly when he started flirting!

She was jealous! He was even better at picking up girls than she was!

Lu Tingxiao tidied up her messy strands of hair as if it was natural, "What do you intend to do next? Find a much bigger leg to hug?"

Ning Xi blinked, not understanding, "Hah? What do you mean, find a bigger leg to hug?"

"You said you wanted to find a big leg to hug last night, and even said that mine wasn't big enough." Lu Tingxiao looked at her meaningfully.

Ning Xi coughed continuously, and was almost choked to death by her own saliva.

Damn it, just how many shenanigans had happened last night...

“Master Lu, I was too drunk last night, so don’t take my words to heart! Your leg is definitely big enough, the biggest leg to hug in the capital is yours!” Her face was full of flattery, but she felt like there was another meaning to her words after having said so...

Lu Tingxiao was in a good mood after getting flattered. Humour was rippling in his eyes as she said, “Then why won’t you hug mine?”

“I... I... I...” Ning Xi stammered for a while but couldn’t finish her sentence.

Lu Tingxiao rubbed her head and decided to let her off the hook, “Alright, I won’t tease you anymore. Let’s go back to the house to sleep, you’ll need your energy to overcome the challenges ahead. Or would you like to stay a while longer with your little darling?”

“No, no need for that, let’s go back to the house!” She was naturally eager to get out of the car.

After getting out of the car, Lu Tingxiao stood next to the car door and suddenly stopped moving.

Ning Xi scratched her head, “What happened?”

Lu Tingxiao strode over to a bush.

She followed curiously, and saw... Second Master Lu carrying a camera in his arms, sleeping soundly in the underbrush with limbs askew.

She knew that under the banner of Golden Age, there was not only a management company, but also over 300 media outlets. Second Master Lu was considered the boss of all the paparazzi.

But wasn’t this guy too ridiculous, he wouldn’t miss out even on his own brother’s gossip...

The corner of Ning Xi’s mouth twitched, “Second Master... this... should we wake him? Won’t he catch a cold like this?”

Lu Tingxiao nodded and kicked him.

Lu Jingli woke up with a shout.

He started crying the moment he woke, “You’re too much! Why are the windows of this car so impermeable! I couldn’t see inside no matter what I used!”

Lu Tingxiao looked down on his silly brother in a domineering manner, “Come to my study later, there’s something I want you to do for me.”

“Oh~” Lu Jingli rubbed his eyes and dusted himself off as he climbed to his feet. His gaze flitted nonstop between the two as he muttered, “Why didn’t the car shake! Don’t tell me that I missed the moment? That can’t be! With my brother’s stamina, the car should shake for a whole night at the very least...”

Ning Xi: “Why do you understand your brother’s stamina so well...”

It’s easy for people to misunderstand, you know!

Lu Jingli scratched his head, “That’s because when he beats me up, he lasts for the whole night!”

Ning Xi: “...”

Fine, you win!

After returning to the room Lu Tingxiao had prepared for her, Ning Xi was totally speechless.

In just one night and half a day, the guest room had been completely renovated.

The room’s style had originally been clean with cool tones, but it had been changed into a cosy room with warm tones. Not only that, the closet was filled with a row of clothes all in her size. From pajamas to home clothes to party dresses, even the accessories and handbags were all super ultra limited editions...

He was simply... inhumanly rich...

HM Chapter 45

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 45: Displaying Gratitude

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volarenovels.

“What’s wrong? You’re not satisfied?” Lu Tingxiao was standing behind her.

Ning Xi touched her forehead, “It’s not a matter of satisfaction...”

“Then what’s wrong?”

“CEO Lu...”

“Use my name.”

“Okay, Lu Tingxiao, don’t you think you’re treating me... a little too well?” He was treating her so well that she couldn’t help but misunderstand.

“You’ve finally realised.” Lu Tingxiao had the look of finally having taught something to a child.

Ning Xi: “...”

Seeing her conflicted expression, Lu Tingxiao’s eyes darkened for a second before returning to normal, “You saved Little Treasure, and Little Treasure still needs your help for a very long period of time. Is there anything wrong with treating you well?”

He paused for a moment, then looked at her, “Or do you want me to use other methods to show my gratitude?”

So she had just been misunderstanding his intentions. A large rock she had been carrying in her heart seemed to have settled down. She quickly waved her hand and said, “No, no, this is fine... it’s pretty good...”

She was not going to mention other ways for him to show his gratitude.

Ning Xi could never run in the same circles as someone like Lu Tingxiao. If he knew of her dirty past, he probably wouldn't even let her meet Little Treasure anymore.

"It's still early, rest for a while. Come down for breakfast later."

"Okay."

After Lu Tingxiao left, Ning Xi laid on the large comfortable bed, wide awake.

How would she be able to fall asleep when she was waiting for bad news?

Even though the directors were happy with her, it didn't mean that they would be able to withstand the pressure from the sponsors.

Finally, she could no longer sit and wait for her death.

Ning Xi sat up and opened her laptop to login to MSN.

My Lonely Empty Loss: Are you there?

Corrupted Devil King: Wow, Miss Big Star Ning. You're free to contact a peasant like me?

My Lonely Empty Loss: Do you have money? Can you lend me 8 million?

Corrupted Devil King: What happened?

My Lonely Empty Loss: Please don't ask about the reason.

Corrupted Devil King: I just invested my spare money into a winery, it'll take some time.

My Lonely Empty Loss: How long?

Corrupted Devil King: 3 days.

My Lonely Empty Loss: Thanks.

Corrupted Devil King: Heh heh, my dear. It's the first time you've actually asked me for something.

My Lonely Empty Loss: When are you coming back to China? I'll go fetch you.

Corrupted Devil King: Ning Xi, you're heartless!

Seeing that Corrupted Devil King had gone offline, Ning Xi felt stifled in her

heart.

She didn't want to owe anyone favours if she couldn't help it, especially since this person was one of her exes.

Although she knew that she had hurt him by doing this kind of equivalent exchange, she had no other choice.

She had lost the ability to care a long time ago, and she never wanted to feel it again.

As for the reason why she didn't borrow the money from Lu Tingxiao, she was already too involved with the Lu family. She absolutely did not want to get involved even further with them, especially with money matters.

After an hour, Ning Xi finally received a call.

It was Chang Li.

Ning Xi pressed her palm and took a deep breath before she picked up the call, "Hello?"

"Don't forget that filming starts tomorrow morning at 9. Take a car there yourself. I have to take care of Xueluo, so I don't have the time to look after you. You don't even need me since you're so capable anyway!" Chang Li was still as sharp as usual. The only difference was that her tone was particularly bad today, as if Ning Xi owed her 8 million dollars.

"What? We're filming?" Ning Xi was stunned.

"Are you still sleeping? Wake up! You're not allowed to be late on the first day!" Chang Li's tone was impatient, and she immediately hung up.

Ning Xi held onto her phone and remained in a daze for a long while.

What happened? She was still in?

She scrambled out of bed and paced around the room, and finally dialed the director's number, "Hello, Director Guo. Sorry for disturbing you this early, but I had something I wanted to ask you!"

"You're asking about the matter of Director Ning trying to switch you out?"

"Yes." Ning Xi's heart clenched, Ning Yaohua had done exactly what he said.

HM Chapter 46

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 46: You Are My Angel

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volarenovels.

“Ning Xi, Producer Wang, Screenwriter Ye and I are all extremely satisfied with you. However, the cruel reality is that our feelings aren’t enough to film a movie. The most important thing is funding, so we don’t have any control over things like casting sometimes. Who gets to have the final say? Of course it’s the person who put in the most money!”

Ning Xi’s heart slowly sunk as she listened. She had been switched, hadn’t she? Why did Chang Li inform her about the filming then?

“Last night, Director Ning did talk to me. He disagreed with your casting because he felt that you were too new, however...” Guo Qisheng paused.

Ning XI hated that she couldn’t pull him over through the phone so she could give him a good shake. Couldn’t he say everything all at once?

“However, Ning Xi, you’re in luck. Another sponsor seems to have taken a liking to you. They indicated that they wouldn’t accept anyone else playing Meng Changge. Work hard!”

“Really?” Ning Xi’s bruised heart was suddenly flying in midair. She felt like she had been taken for a rollercoaster ride by the director, it was too much excitement for her heart! “Director Guo, you did that on purpose, didn’t you! I almost had a heart attack from the fright!”

“Hahaha, youngsters these days can’t keep their cool, eh?”

“Stop beating around the bush and just tell me already! Have I been replaced?”

“No, no. That sponsor has invested 50 million—that’s the combined investment

of the Ning family and Starlight Entertainment, so he gets to have the final say!"

"I thought the only sponsors for this movie were the Ning family and Starlight. How did another sponsor appear out of nowhere?" Ning Xi felt that it was a little strange.

"It's a sponsor that came in at the last minute, you'll find out soon enough." Guo Qisheng sounded like he was in high spirits.

How could he be unhappy at this point? A 50 million yuan sponsorship had come out of nowhere, and his movie now had a total of 1 billion yuan in sponsorship. Furthermore, he no longer needed to bow to the whims of the ignorant sponsors and swap out the actress he was most satisfied with.

"Got it! Thanks director!"

Ning Xi had just hung up when the door opened with a creak-it was the sleepy-looking little bun.

She squealed in happiness and threw herself onto the little bun, hugging and kissing him fiercely, "Darling! You're my lucky star! You've helped me avoid disaster every time!"

From outside the door, the great demon king watched the girl kissing his son excitedly.

It was clearly all his hard work...

Forget it, nothing else was more important than seeing the girl's bright and beautiful smile.

Lu Tingxiao strolled in, "Did something good happen?"

Ning Xi hugged the little bun who had been dazed by her sudden enthusiasm, "The director just told me that I won't be swapped out because the biggest sponsor for this movie took a liking to me!"

"Oh? Congratulations then!" Lu Tingxiao congratulated her in a deliberately serious manner.

Ning Xi rubbed her chin as she pondered, "The director didn't reveal the identity of the sponsor though. Well, they must be someone with *especially* good taste and vision! Someone who's really, really handsome!"

Lu Tingxiao smiled slightly, "You think so?"

"Of course!" Ning Xi was already acting protective. She suddenly thought of something, "I'll be filming in the day for most of the time, and I may have some scenes to film at night as well. What will happen to Little Treasure?"

Lu Tingxiao did not answer, but looked to his son.

After receiving Ning Xi's warm kisses and hugs, the little bun was in a very good mood. However, upon hearing this bad news, his expression remained blissful. He trotted back to his room.

Thinking that he was going to lock himself up again, Ning Xi tensed up. She didn't expect that he would return quickly with a writing board in his hands.

The words on the board read: fighting.

Ning Xi was so touched that she was about to cry, "Thank you darling, you're really my angel!"

Lu Tingxiao watched the two embracing, his gentle gaze filled with unprecedented warmth.

HM Chapter 47

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 47: Red Roses Everywhere

Support the translator by reading *Hidden Marriage* on [volarenovels](#).

It was the first day of filming today at the studios on the outskirts of the capital.

The first scene was a court banquet where the emperor was going to receive some foreign emissaries. The seventh prince Chu Beichen and his consort Shanggong Yingrong would use their quick wits to counter the challenges from the emissaries. As the Consort De, Ning Xi did not need to do much. She only needed to act as a bewitching and graceful ornament by the emperor's side.

However, even so, wearing so many layers of ancient style clothing on such a hot day was bad enough.

Especially since Ning Xi's costumes were the most complicated. Not only were the clothes thick, even the accessories on her head weighed a few kilograms.

After filming one scene, while no one could tell from the outside, she was sweating completely on the inside.

As soon as the director shouted "Cut!", Ning Xueluo's two assistants immediately rushed over, eager to attend to her. One of them fanned her while the other passed water to her, and the chair was already equipped with a cooling mat.

There wasn't a single assistant by Ning Xi's side. After filming, she wasn't able to have even a single sip of water. As she still had scenes to film, she couldn't even remove the clothes on her, and could only unbutton the collar for some air.

Everyone was praising Ning Xueluo's performance, and the director added a few compliments as well. However, when he turned back to the screens, he kept

rewatching a few screens where Ning Xi had appeared.

Although she had no lines and the camera had focused on her only a few times, her expression was simply too perfect. Looking alluring and indolent even while bored stiff, her expression also carried a few traces of contempt for the people beneath her, because she was preparing to destroy this entire kingdom with her own hands.

Good, he could finally rest easy.

At this time, the errand boy Xiao Li shouted excitedly, “Teacher Ning, your boyfriend is here to visit you!”

Of course, he meant Ning Xueluo with ‘Teacher Ning’.

Su Yan walked over in refreshing casualwear. Two servants were following behind him and carrying a large box, and they started distributing ice cream to everyone.

“Wow! It’s Haagen-Daazs! Thanks for treating us, Mr Su!”

“Teacher Ning is too fortunate, it’s only the first time, and her boyfriend is already here to visit!”

“God! What about us single dogs!”

.....

“Geez, even giving you something to eat won’t hold your tongues!” Ning Xueluo protested coquettishly, then brought a box of ice cream to Ning Xi.

“Junior Ning, you should eat too!”

“Thanks.” Ning Xi received it politely.

This woman would always act like an angel in front of others, especially in front of Su Yan. Even if Ning Xueluo wasn’t tired of it, she had already had enough of watching her act. Luckily Ning Xi was an actress by profession, and didn’t mind acting along with her.

After returning to her seat, Ning Xueluo looked at Su Yan as if she had something to say, but found it difficult to talk. In the end, she still spoke up hesitantly, “Yan-gege, I’m a little worried about Xiao Xi...”

“Hm? What happened to Xiao Xi?” Su Yan immediately asked.

“It was the opening party last night, right? My dad came, and he met Xiao Xi. I’m not sure what Xiao Xi said to dad, but he flew into a terrible rage and wanted to kick her out from her role...”

“How did this happen?” Su Yan frowned.

“I don’t know either, by the time I got there, dad was already furious!”

“What happened afterwards? It looks like Xiao Xi hasn’t been switched out?” Su Yan looked towards Ning Xi’s direction, only to see that she was reading the script earnestly despite sweating profusely under the sun. Although she cut a sorry figure, her face was dazzlingly brilliant under the sunlight.

Speaking in a hesitant manner, Ning Xueluo continued, “My dad called the production team last night, and they agreed to the switch over the phone. However, the next morning, someone anonymously invested 50 million into this movie, and their only request was that Ning Xi had to be the supporting female lead... I’m afraid...”

Su Yan’s expression turned uglier and uglier as he listened. Finally, he said in a low voice, “I know Xiao Xi. She would never do something like that!”

“Yan-gege, you’re too naive. What kind of place is the entertainment circle? Were there any people who didn’t change upon entering this circle? For me, I’m lucky because I have daddy and you to support me, but Ning Xi has such a bad relationship with our family and she refused to accept our help. Don’t tell me that you don’t know what can happen to a beautiful girl with no power and backing?”

“Ning Xi, there’s someone looking for you!” At this moment, the errand boy shouted again, but with a weird tone.

Within an instant, everyone turned their gazes over.

Because it was too eye-catching.

Red roses...

Enough red roses to cover the entire set were slowly being brought in by people...

HM Chapter 48

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 48: There Are Always Exes Trying to Frame Me

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volarenovels.

By the time everyone could react, the whole set had been turned into an ocean of red. On such a hot summer day, it made everyone feel even hotter.

While Ning Xi held onto a card, feeling like she was about to faint.

A row of words was written on the card: 'Remember to come pick me up at the airport~ –Corrupted Devil King'.

"Miss Ning, please sign off on the delivery."

I'll sign off on your sister!

"Please take it all back, it'll affect everyone's work piled up here!" Ning Xi tried her best to keep a gentle tone as she rejected the gift.

"We can't do that, we promised our customer that we can only go once we've watched you sign on the receipt!" The flower boy was troubled.

At this moment, one of the prop directors hurriedly tried to persuade her, "Ning Xi, just accept them, just accept them! Coincidentally, we have a scene that needs roses later on, so we won't need to spend so much effort to prepare them if you give them to us!"

Since the prop director had already said so, Ning Xi could not bear to trouble the delivery boy any longer. She pinched the space between her eyebrows, then messily signed her own name.

By this point, everyone watching from the side started whispering amongst themselves with envy on their faces: "My gosh! There are so many roses! It's so romantic! Who sent them?"

“Do you even need to ask? It definitely has to be a suitor! Beautiful women are really treated differently, to think that someone sent flowers on the first day of filming! And they sent so many!”

The assistant by Ning Xueluo’s side, Cui Caijing, said carelessly, “Although there are so many of them, it doesn’t actually cost much!”

Just as she said so, someone suddenly came over looking for Ning Xi.

It wasn’t so eye-catching this time as the new arrival carefully passed her a small box.

All the busybodies stretched their heads over trying to peek, what was it this time?

Ning Xi’s face was full of suspicion as she opened it, only to see a huge, sparkling diamond with a note. The note said: ‘Long time no see.’, and was signed off as ‘YS’.

Staring at those two letters, Ning Xi’s expression turned even uglier.

****! Were they collaborating together on this? She was trying to keep a low profile, why was it so hard?

In such a short time, she had first gotten fresh flowers and then diamonds. The whole production team was in an uproar.

“Oh my god! That diamond is freaking huge! My eyes are about to go blind!”

“Ning Xi’s suitors are so crazy!”

This time, Cui Caijing had nothing to say, she could only whisper sourly, “Who knows if it’s real or not.”

While Ning Xi collapsed in a chair, looking like she couldn’t live on.

Whatever was supposed to happen, would come eventually...

She couldn’t even hide...

Ning Xi took a few deep breaths and tried her best to recover her calm, before walking to the director, “My apologies, Director Guo. I’ve caused trouble for the crew...”

Guo Qisheng didn’t seem to mind at all, he chuckled as he waved away her

apology, “It’s natural to have a few suitors when you’re such a beautiful lady! There’s nothing to apologise for! We’ve even gotten your flowers for free!”

Not far away, Ning Xueluo looked calm on the outside, but she was gritting her teeth in irritation.

How could she not be jealous? That village girl who had still reeked of dirt back then, could actually drive men mad to the point of sending such extravagant gifts and effortlessly get the things she had to work so hard to get...

Taking advantage of the little time she had before the next scene started, Ning Xi quickly found a corner and dialed a number.

“Hello? Have you received my present, darling?” A leisurely tone sounded from the phone.

“Jiang Muye! **** your grandfather! Are you for real?” In contrast, Ning Xi was on fire.

“Tsk, tsk. You’re the very first one who’s ever refused to **** me after receiving my roses, and you even want to **** my grandfather! Aren’t your tastes too weird?”

“Stop changing the topic! What do you want?”

“Nothing, I just wanted to remind you to come pick me up at the airport. You’ve promised me!”

“You still dare to let me pick you up? Aren’t you afraid that I’ll bring a 40m knife and chop you to death with it, you bastard?” Ning Xi strongly suppressed her killing intent.

“So you’re going back on your word?” The person’s tone turned cold.

“The condition for going to pick you up was that you would lend me 8 million, but now I don’t need it. Didn’t I send you a text explaining that?”

“I don’t care anyway, you’ve already promised me. Although I didn’t lend you the money in the end, but I agreed the moment you asked, even though it was such a huge sum. How could that be fake? Don’t you hate owing people the most? Doesn’t this still count as a favour?”

HM Chapter 49

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 49: The Little Young Master Who Likes Making Fruit Juice

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volarenovels.

Ning Xi held her forehead and paced aggressively, “I’m not going to mention sending flowers to prank me for now, but you know that the news of your return has already been leaked. The media and your fans will be flooding the airport! You want me to pick you up? You want me to be torn up by them? Jiang Muye, I only dumped you once! It’s not worth giving me such a hard time!”

“Am I giving you a hard time? This is a free opportunity for you to become famous, something so many stars want but can’t even get!”

“I. Don’t. Need. It!”

“Fine! You’re not coming, are you? Then I’ll tell the whole world that you dumped me! Anyway I don’t care if I’m humiliated, I want to let everyone carry out justice for me!” The other person said shamelessly.

“You...” Ning Xi’s lungs were about to burst from anger. The stupidest thing she had ever done in her whole life was provoking a troublemaker like Jiang Muye.

Did you think I wouldn’t be able to deal with your cheap tricks?

The corner of Ning Xi’s mouth raised slightly as she chuckled, “Sure, you want me to fetch you? I’ll go! Just don’t regret it when the time comes!”

Actually, it was easy enough to settle the matter with Jiang Muye. He was just unhappy about being dumped for the first time, so he wanted to take a little petty revenge. He would stop once he had enough. The thing that made her head hurt was the devil that had sent the diamond.

Forget it, forget it. She wasn’t going to bother with it until she had to!

“Ning Xi, there’s someone looking—”

She heard the errand boy Xiao Li’s pressurising voice the moment she came out of the corner, and she was so frightened she wanted to drop everything and run.

Who was it this time?

Will this ever end!?

Everyone in the crew was suddenly full of energy, was there going to be something even more explosive this time?

In the corner, Cui Caijing’s expression was full of disdain, “These crude men only now how to throw out money! They’re so low class!”

“Miss Xi, h-hello!” This time, it was a shy girl. Seeing that Ning Xi’s expression wasn’t too good, she even thought that she had done something wrong, and looked apprehensive.

Facing a girl like that, Ning Xi couldn’t vent her rage no matter how angry she was, “No, it’s nothing. Are you looking for me?”

“I’m here to send you something.” The girl opened up something white that looked like a thermos. Cool white mist floated out, revealing three bottles that looked like they contained fruit juice: red, yellow and green.

“This is...?” The corner of Ning Xi’s mouth twitched. She had seen too many palace dramas, so her first reaction was that someone was trying to poison her.

“This was personally made by my little young master. There’s watermelon juice, orange juice and green bean soup.” The girl replied.

“Who’s your little young master?” Ning Xi was suspicious, and tried to recall if there were any little young masters who liked making fruit juice amongst the people she had offended.

The girl indicated that she should read the note on the bottles.

Ning Xi tore it off for a look, only to see an English word written on the note: ‘fighting’, with a heart shape drawn on the end.

She could almost imagine the sender’s shy expression, with pursed lips as he

drew the heart.

“So it’s Little Treasure...” Ning Xi’s gaze turned gentle in an instant, and her turbulent emotions finally calmed down.

At first, she had been worried about being too high-profile at the start of her career and drawing unwanted trouble and gossip.

Now that she thought about it, why should she care so much about the gazes of the people who didn’t care about her? If she had to keep caring about what other people thought of her in this industry, wouldn’t she die from exhaustion?

Back then, she had cared too much about what the upper class socialites had thought about her, even as their gazes looked down on her. She had cared too much about her supposed biological parents’ attitude towards her, and had regarded Su Yan’s opinion too highly. It had caused her to feel even more inferior as time passed, and she had slowly lost her identity...

She had already understood this philosophy long ago, yet she had let a small incident shake her heart so much.

She only had to be herself, keep a clear conscience, and one day, she would be able to prove herself with her own strength.

She was fighting only for the people who cared about her.

HM Chapter 50

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 50: Sarang Haeyo

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volarenovels.

“Put it down over here, and help me to thank your little young master!” Ning Xi took out her phone to send Little Treasure a message as she said so.

The cast and crew looked like they were minding their own business, but they were all staring over at Ning Xi’s corner, curious about what had been sent over this time.

In the end, they seemed to have seen 3 bottles of... fruit juice?

Ning Xi had seemed troubled by the roses, and she hadn’t even seemed pleasantly surprised when receiving the diamond. However, this time, Ning Xi had an expression of bliss, and was even happily sending a text message.

Each of them had their own lamentations:

“Aiyah, these days, money alone isn’t enough to get the beauty, you have to use your heart!”

“Right? Didn’t you hear that girl say that it was handmade? How sweet!”

“I bet the one that sent the fruit juice will win the girl!”

“Then I’ll bet the one who sent the diamond!”

“Why isn’t anyone rooting for the one who sent the flowers?”

.....

After finishing the fruit juices and green bean soup, Ning Xi was fired up and ready to continue working.

At the same time, Lu Tingxiao, who was taking a break from work and

accompanying his son at home, got a notification on his phone with a ‘ding’.

The notification indicated that there was a new message from Ning Xi.

Lu Tingxiao tapped on it, and the corners of his lips rose slightly.

[Darling, thanks for your fruit juice and green bean soup, it was super super delicious! Sarang haeyo!]

He looked at the message for a long while before waving his hand at his son, who was sitting unmoving at the window in a daze, “Little Treasure, come over.”

Little Treasure ignored him.

Lu Tingxiao sighed lightly, “There’s a message from your Auntie Xiao Xi.”

Little Treasure scuttled over like a rocket, and even tried to grab the phone by jumping.

Lu Tingxiao raised the phone even higher, “I’ll let you see it if you call me daddy.”

Little Treasure’s expression was full of protest, indicating his refusal to cooperate.

It was only when his son was anxious to the point of crying that Lu Tingxiao finally softened and passed the phone to him.

While watching his son read the message, looking perfectly content, Lu Tingxiao had an expression of worry on his face.

It was most likely because there were so few things that could trouble him, that God had sent Little Treasure to his side to test him.

Little Treasure was extremely intelligent. He could speak at 6 months, and although he had a taciturn personality, since that incident, he had never spoken again.

He had missed out too much during Little Treasure’s early years, and it was only when he wanted to make up for it that he found that it was much too late.

He didn’t know when he would be able to hear his son call him daddy again...

Little Treasure stared at the phone for a long while. It seemed like there was something he couldn’t understand. Finally, he moved closer to his daddy and

pointed at ‘Sarang haeyo’ with his tiny little finger, most likely asking the meaning of those words.

“It’s just a manner of speech, there’s no special meaning to it.” Lu Tingxiao answered seriously.

“Pfft– Oppa, don’t teach Little Treasure when you’re not familiar with pop culture! ‘Sarang haeyo’ means ‘I love you’ in Korean, okay!” Lu Jingli was bouncing as he ran over, he even made a heart shape with his fingers.

Little Treasure sent a scornful look to his dad after hearing so, then ran off with little steps to continue pressing fruit juice.

Lu Tingxiao was fluent in 12 languages. Even if Ning Xi had written those words in Korean, he would definitely have recognised them. However, when the words were written as they were pronounced in Chinese, he could not understand it.

“Don’t you have to work?” Lu Tingxiao looked coldly at Lu Jingli in askance, with the expression of a boss managing his subordinates.

Lu Jingli immediately moved a chair over to sit in front of him excitedly, “Boss, I have something very important to report to you!”

Lu Tingxiao was lazy to speak, he had an expression of ‘speak if you want to’.

Lu Jingli gestured wildly with his hands as he spoke, extremely excited, “Do you know what news I received today? Xiao Xi Xi’s ardent admirers sent her presents while she was on set!”

“That was the fruit juice and green bean soup that Little Treasure sent to her.” Lu Tingxiao was indifferent.

“I know, but before our Little Treasure sent his gift, there were other people who sent her gifts too! Furthermore, there were two of them! One of them sent her enough roses to cover the set, while the other sent a huge 10 carat diamond!”

Lu Tingxiao’s expression slowly turned cold. On this hot summer day, it helped to relieve the heat a little.

HM Chapter 51

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 51: It's Her Ex Again

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volarenovels.

“Have you found out who they were?” Lu Tingxiao’s expression spoke of hunting down the perpetrators without mercy once their identities were found.

Lu Jingli knocked on the table, “That’s the main point I was going to talk to you about. Even with my information network, I couldn’t find out who those two people were. It looks like you’ll have to wait for them to do it again before we have the chance to find out who they are.”

The evil demon king’s gaze was enough to kill right now, how could he wait for them to do it again?

Lu Tingxiao immediately dialed a number, and with a cold tone as frosty as the wind blowing off a glacier, “Cheng Feng, investigate two men for me.”

Lu Jingli’s face was filled with surprise, “Wow, even your secret troops have been mobilised!”

His brother’s information network wasn’t something his gossip network could match up to, because if you left a single clue, they would be able to dig up everything about you mercilessly.

“Bro, I’ve already told you that Ning Xi’s past is complicated. You finally believe me, right? I think you should just let Cheng Feng investigate Ning Xi while you’re at it!” Lu Jingli sincerely and earnestly advised.

“There is no need for that.” Everyone had skeletons in their closet. He wouldn’t touch the parts that she didn’t want others to find out. If she wanted to tell him, then she would tell him herself.

At six in the evening, filming finally ended for the day.

The most important scenes today had been between the male and female leads. However, although Ning Xi did not have many scenes, she still had to appear in the background, so she had acted like an ornament for the whole day.

It was tiring enough to act as an ornament. However, she still had to wear such a heavy costume, her neck was about to break, and rashes caused by sweat were starting to appear on her body.

After changing out of her clothes and removing her makeup, she put on a surgical mask and prepared to take the subway.

She wasn't all that famous right now, so no one would recognise her. Taking the subway was convenient, and she wouldn't get stuck in traffic.

As she was walking towards the bus stop, a black Maserati stopped next to her.

The car window rolled down, and Su Yan smiled as he looked at her, "Xiao Xi, I'll send you home!"

Ning Xi: "..."

Her ex...

Why was it another ex again...

Couldn't they let her live in peace just for a bit?

"No need." Ning Xi continued walking straight, she didn't want to look at the face that made her want to puke.

However, Su Yan slowly drove after her, unwilling to leave, "Xiao Xi, can we talk?"

Ning Xi sneered, "What's there to talk about with you? Do you think I don't have enough scandals around me? Are you waiting for someone to take a photo of us and create an even bigger scandal?"

Su Yan frowned, he wasn't used to getting cold sarcasm coming from the girl who used to listen to his every wish, "Xiao Xi, that's not what I mean. I really have something important to talk to you about!"

If she continued exchanging words with him like this on the road, they were

definitely going to be photographed.

This idiot's car was so eye-catching.

Ning Xi looked left and right, making sure that there was no one around, before quickly getting on and closing the door.

After half an hour, in a private room of a certain restaurant.

Su Yan ordered a bunch of dishes after calling the waiter over, and most of them were things she liked to eat, "Xiao Xi, long time no see. I don't know if your tastes have changed, have you been well while you were overseas these few years? I sent you money, but you returned it all, and you even changed your account..."

"If you have something to say, say it." Ning Xi propped up her head with one arm as she focused on sending a text message to Little Treasure, informing him that she would be back a little later tonight.

Su Yan had no other choice but to push a check to her.

Ning Xi looked at the check for 8 million from the corner of her eyes-then narrowed them, "What's the meaning of this?"

Su Yan's expression was severe, "Xiao Xi, don't do something you'll regret."

Ning Xi put down her phone, and looked at him with a fake smile, "Oh? Do tell me what I've done?"

"Then tell me, how did you get this role?" Su Yan's tone suddenly turned even more serious.

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Chapter 52: Healing Kisses

Support the translator by reading Hidden Marriage on volarenovels.

“How do you think I got this role?” Ning Xi crossed her arms and leaned back in the chair, indifferently returning his question with another question.

Su Yan looked like he was on the last of his patience, he slammed his hand on the table, “Ning Xi! You should know better than I do about the kind of trouble a girl like you could meet in the entertainment circle! Why are you so intent on stepping into murky waters like that!”

“Heh, a girl like me...” Ning Xi smiled, “Young Master Su, I wonder what kind of relationship we have, for you to be lecturing me like this?”

If it had been Ning Xi from back in those days, she would have become hysterical upon hearing such words.

Back then, Su Yan had kept saying that he hoped his future wife would not enter the entertainment industry. However, when it came to Ning Xueluo, he was fully supporting her. Even so, he was actually sitting here and trying to dictate her life.

“Xiao Xi, even though we’ve already broken up, I still treat you as a little sister. I’m only trying to help you, could you stop being so stubborn? Take this money, break the contract with Starlight and leave the entertainment industry!” Su Yan persuaded her earnestly.

“Heh, is this trying to help me?” Ning Xi’s indolent gaze suddenly turned bone-piercingly cold, “Speaking of which, I do have a favour that Young Master Su could help me out with! I hope Young Master Su could help me tell the Ning family the truth, and testify in court that Ning Xueluo paid off two men to rape

me. Would you help me with this favour?"

"Xiao Xi, I..." Su Yan's face turned deathly white, "If I do so, then Xueluo's life will be over... and back then, Xueluo can only be charged with the attempt. You entered the wrong room, and the one you had relations with was someone else..."

Even though she had expected his answer, Ning Xi's heart still throbbed in pain. She spoke with a taunting expression, "So what you mean is, any wrong you committed back then has been erased? Getting raped after getting drugged was my fault, and getting pregnant with a bastard and giving birth to a dead baby was also my fault!"

Su Yan frowned, "Xiao Xi, that's not what I meant! Xueluo and I have already apologised to you for this incident, and we've been trying our best to make amends for this many years. Why can't you forgive and forget?"

Ning Xi grabbed her bag and stood up, "Heh, you actually want me to forgive and forget all of that? Come back and plead with me again when you can happily shake hands with and smile at someone who rapes and impregnates your Xueluo with his spawn!"

Su Yan's expression suddenly changed, "Ning Xi! How could you say something like that!"

"Oh! I was only talking about a hypothetical situation and you're already feeling this sorry for her? So when it doesn't happen to you, you can't feel the pain, right? You're still hoping for me to forgive you? I'm not a saint!" Ning Xi tossed out a sentence and then strode away.

That was really unlucky!

She shouldn't have talked so much with Su Yan. It was so disgusting that she lost her appetite for dinner tonight.

She needed to return home quickly and hug her little bun to recover.

Ning Xi had just walked to the door of the Lu residence, when she saw a cute, white, little bun running towards her.

It looked like he had been sprawled at the window seat and waiting for her for

quite a while.

Ning Xi was immediately healed, and she gave a super big kiss on the cheek to little bun as usual.

“Darling, have you eaten yet? I sent a message to tell you not to wait for me and eat your dinner, did you listen to me?”

Little bun nodded twice.

“Good boy!” Ning Xi kissed little bun again as a reward.

“Play by yourself first, auntie’s going to shower and change out of these clothes!”

Little bun nodded.

The two of them held hands and walked towards the main door.

At the second story window, watching the scene outside, Lu Tingxiao’s face showed quite a bit of depression. He had never known that he was someone who got jealous easily.

He was even starting to get jealous of his own son.

Ning Xi had kissed his son the moment she had come back, and she had even kissed him twice.

While he could only watch from afar.

After returning to her own room, the first thing Ning Xi did was to. Take. Off. Her. Bra!

On such a hot summer day, wearing something like that was practically torture, okay?

She reached behind her to undo the clasp and was about to pull out her bra. Halfway through pulling it out, the door behind her was pushed open with a creak.

“Ning...” Lu Tingxiao had only said one word when he was stunned to the point of staring blankly. His hand was still in the midst of pushing open the door, and he looked at the scene in the room with astonishment.

TL Note: Adding 'Xiao', which means 'little', in front of any part of a name turns it into an affectionate nickname. So 'Xiao Xi' or 'Auntie Xiao Xi' refer to Ning Xi~ :3

HM Chapter 53

Hidden Marriage

Chapter 53: Were You Pleased by Me?

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Ning Xi remained in that awkward position. Taking it out didn't seem right, but shoving it back in didn't seem right either. It was really tragic.

To make matters worse, the bra she was wearing today had been specially ordered. A triangular Superman logo was printed on both sides, it was extremely eye-catching.

Lu Tingxiao had obviously noticed it. His brow ridge went up, but like a gentleman, he didn't display any other sign of shock, he coughed lightly before saying, "Sorry, I saw that the door wasn't closed..."

He prepared to leave when he finished speaking.

"It's fine, it's fine. It's my fault for forgetting to close the door!" Ning Xi deliberately acted calm and just pulled her bra out before stuffing it under a blanket. She fanned herself with one hand, "Um, it's just too hot in the summer. You guys wouldn't understand the troubles women face! Uh, were you looking for me for something?"

"Why did you come back this late? A date?" Lu Tingxiao asked, seeming like he didn't particularly care about the answer.

"What date! I just met an especially loathsome person, and talked for a bit!" Ning Xi grumbled with a wretched expression.

Listening to her tone, it was clear that it wasn't a date. Lu Tingxiao's expression relaxed slightly, "I left dinner for you, come and eat when you're done with your shower."

"Actually, I can settle my meals myself..." Ning Xi said in embarrassment.

“It’s just one more place at the table.”

“Uh, okay then.”

After Lu Tingxiao walked away, Ning Xi hurriedly locked the door.

She had forgotten that she wasn’t at home and had actually made such a rudimentary mistake. She would have to take note of that from now.

After having a shower and dinner, Ning Xi bundled up comfortably in bed and started to read the latest news on the web. Little bun was sprawled over the table, hugging a large book.

“Ning Xueluo reveals her handsome and rich boyfriend, screen king Zhao bursts out in jealousy on the scene”

“Ning Xueluo is full of praises for junior Ning Xi’s beauty and acting skills”

“Ning Xi fully deserves the title of #1 Beauty in the entertainment circle, suppressing Jia Qingqing”

“Meng Changge outshines the other beauties at《Land Under Heaven》’s opening ceremony (photos)”

“First day of filming for 《Land Under Heaven》, Ning Xueluo’s handsome and rich boyfriend comes to visit”

“Counting down the number of rich admirers for pretty rookie Ning Xi, red roses piled on the set on the first day of filming (inside photos)”

.....

The headlines were still rather normal at first, but towards the end, they got a little strange. Topics like “Ning Xi is being kept as a mistress”, “Ning Xi’s rich sponsor”, “Ning Xi’s cheating on how many men?”, “The mess in Ning Xi’s private life” started appearing...

While on set, she had already been prepared, so she could stay rather calm upon seeing these.

She knew that she would have gotten rumours like this sooner or later with an image like hers, even without Jiang Muye and YS’s interference that day.

The tabloids were sitting on the fence right now, since there wasn’t any

concrete evidence. What she was worried about was that people would start to believe the rumours if they were mentioned often enough, regardless of whether they were true or not.

“Do you need any help?” Lu Tingxiao’s voice sounded by her ear.

Ning Xi hugged her notebook and sat up. Propping up her chin, she smiled and said, “Big Boss Lu, are you going to get rid of all the online rumours for me?”

“Why not?” Lu Tingxiao passed her and Little Treasure a cup of milk each, “Yours is low-fat.”

“Thank you!” Ning Xi was overwhelmed by the unexpected care, and took the cup carefully. She spoke up, “Thank you for your good intentions, but there’s no need for that. I believe time will prove everything.”

“I believe in you.” Lu Tingxiao said.

Ning Xi was dazed for a moment before helplessly holding her forehead, “Lu Tingxiao, has anyone ever told you that you’re really good at wheeling!”

“Wheeling?” Suspicion flashed across Lu Tingxiao’s face, he clearly didn’t know what this internet term meant.

“Um... It means that you’re good at coaxing girls to be happy!” Ning Xi gave a simplified explanation.

A smile rippled in Lu Tingxiao’s eyes when he heard so, “I’m happy with your evaluation. Does this mean you were pleased by me?”

The atmosphere turned pink.

Ning Xi’s cheeks were burning in an instant. She was vexed at herself in her heart: who told you to have such a loose mouth! Your loose mouth led to such a dangerous topic!

Luckily, Lu Tingxiao always knew when to step back, “I’m going to look at some documents in my study. Remember to rest early, both of you. Good night.”

Ning Xi: “Good night~”

Little Treasure: “...”

Although little bun didn’t say anything, his intentions were clearly written on

his face: “Hurry up and go, don’t disturb me and Auntie Xiao Xi~”